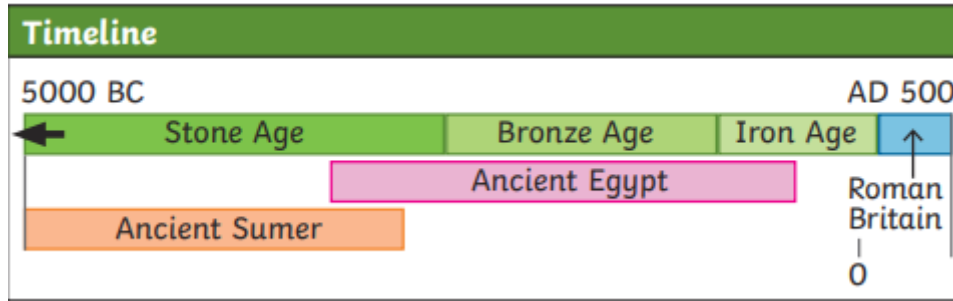


Y3 Thinking like a historian... Stone Age



The Stone Age covers over 3 million years and is the longest time period in the human timeline. It can be broken down into 3 smaller time periods:

Palaeolithic - around 3,000,000 BC. Early humans used simple stone tools with sharp edges.

Mesolithic - around 10,000 BC. Humans were hunter-gatherers and constantly on the move in order to stay safe and warm.

Neolithic - around 4500-2400 BC. Farming developed and villages were built.



Key Dates and Events

2,000,000 BC	The first real humans (Homo habilis) appear - They used simple stone tools and built shelters
10,000 BC	'The Ice Age' comes to an end in Britain - This marks the beginning of the Mesolithic period
3,000BC	The village of Skara Brae is built in Orkney. The people who live there are beginning to farm their own food and build homes instead of travelling from place to place. Construction starts on Stonehenge in Wiltshire. It will take around 1000 years for it

Stonehenge

A very famous, **prehistoric** monument in Wiltshire, England. Building started around 5000 years ago.

It is thought to have been used for **ancient astronomy**, religious ceremonies or places of healing.

Some of the stones were brought from Preseli Hills in South Wales - 240 miles away!

Sarsen Stones were vertical stones with a horizontal stone laying across the top making 'doorways'.




Originally, this monument was just an **earthwork** and up to 150 people were buried there. Huge stones were then added in different stages. What we see today are enormous stones placed in a circular and horseshoe pattern.



Key Vocabulary

Stone Age	Named after the stone tools that the earliest humans used to help them survive.
Pre-historic	The time before recorded history
Flint	A very hard stone that can produce a spark when struck by another stone.
Hunter-gatherer	Someone who hunts animals and gathers wild food to eat.

Stone Age

Houses	Lived in caves or temporary shelters Skara Brae —Houses had a fire pit in the middle, beds built into the walls and stone shelves. The roofs were made from a timber or whalebone frame covered in seaweed, animal skin or grass.
Clothing	Clothes made from animal skins 
Weapons	Weapons such as stone axes, spears, bows and arrows were all used to hunt for food 
Food	Horse, deer, hares, seabirds, fish were all eaten. Every part of the animal was used. Seeds, berries, nuts, eggs and insects were also gathered. 

Interesting facts: The dog was domesticated during the Stone Age around 20,000-40,000 years ago. At the beginning of the Stone Age, Europe was still attached to Africa.