

Changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age

## **Background understanding**

Prehistory in Britain began with the arrival of groups of hunter-gatherers from further south in Europe around 900,000 years ago and ended with the Roman invasion in AD43. During this huge amount of time, humans developed from hunter-gatherers moving around a sparse country, to people who erected great monuments which still survive today. Prehistory is usually divided into three periods; the Stone Age, the Bronze Age, and the Iron Age (and each of these periods can be subdivided). These periods are named after the materials used to make tools and weapons.

When? (Timeline of Key Events)		
814,000BC	Evidence of flints made into tools, in Britain	
40,000BC	Homo sapiens arrived in Britain	
33,000BC	Ice Age drove humans out of Britain	
11,000BC	Humans returned to Britain	
6500BC	Doggerland flooded, forming the English Channel, cutting off Britain from the rest of the European Mainland	
4400BC	People began to settle across Britain, building farms	
3180BC	Village built at Skara Brae, in the Orkney Islands, in Scotland	
2200	Bronze Age began in Britain	
2,000BC	Stonehenge was completed	
800BC	The Iron Age began	
100BC	Coins were used for the first time, in Britain	
55BC	Britons in war-chariots defeated the Romans	
43AD	The Romans invaded Britain again and the Iron Age ended	

What? (Key Vocabulary)		
Spelling	Definition/Sentence	
prehistory	the period of time in the past before people could write	
homo sapiens	the scientific name for modern humans. Homo means 'man' and sapiens means 'wise'	
hunter gatherers	groups of people who get food by hunting, fishing, and foraging rather than farming	
climate	the weather condition in an area over a long period of time (during the last ice age, the climate in Britain was extremely cold)	
tool	an instrument that is usually held with the hands and helps one to do something	
village	a group of houses where people choose to live near each other	
agriculture	the practice of farming and growing crops (plants)	
fossil	the preserved remains of plants or animals	