

Core Knowledge

Stone Age

- The Stone Age is the name given to the earliest period of human culture when stone tools were first used
- The first humans arrived in Britain over 700 000 years ago
- The Stone Age is divided into three periods: the **Palaeolithic** (old Stone Age), **Mesolithic** (middle Stone Age) and the **Neolithic** (new Stone Age)
- The wolf was domesticated in the Mesolithic Age to help humans hunt and guard against danger
- The Neolithic era is the latest part of the Stone Age and was the period when farming was invented and people started caring for animals such as sheep, cows and pigs

Bronze Age

- The oldest Bronze Age started around 3300 BC with civilisations such as the Egyptians
- The Bronze Age in Britain lasted between 2500 BC and 800 BC
- Bronze is a mix of copper and tin, and was used to make weapons and tools for farming
- Bronze Age people made round-houses that usually had a fire in the middle
- It is possible bronze was first brought to Britain by the Beaker people who made bell shaped pottery to drink from

Iron Age

- The Iron Age in Britain started in 800 BC and lasted around 850 years till 43AD
- Iron was much stronger than bronze, which made it a better material for weapons and many tools
- The first coins were used around 100 BC
- The Celts fought with long swords and oval shields and also lived in roundhouses, within hillforts
- The Iron Age ended when the Romans invaded Britain in 43AD

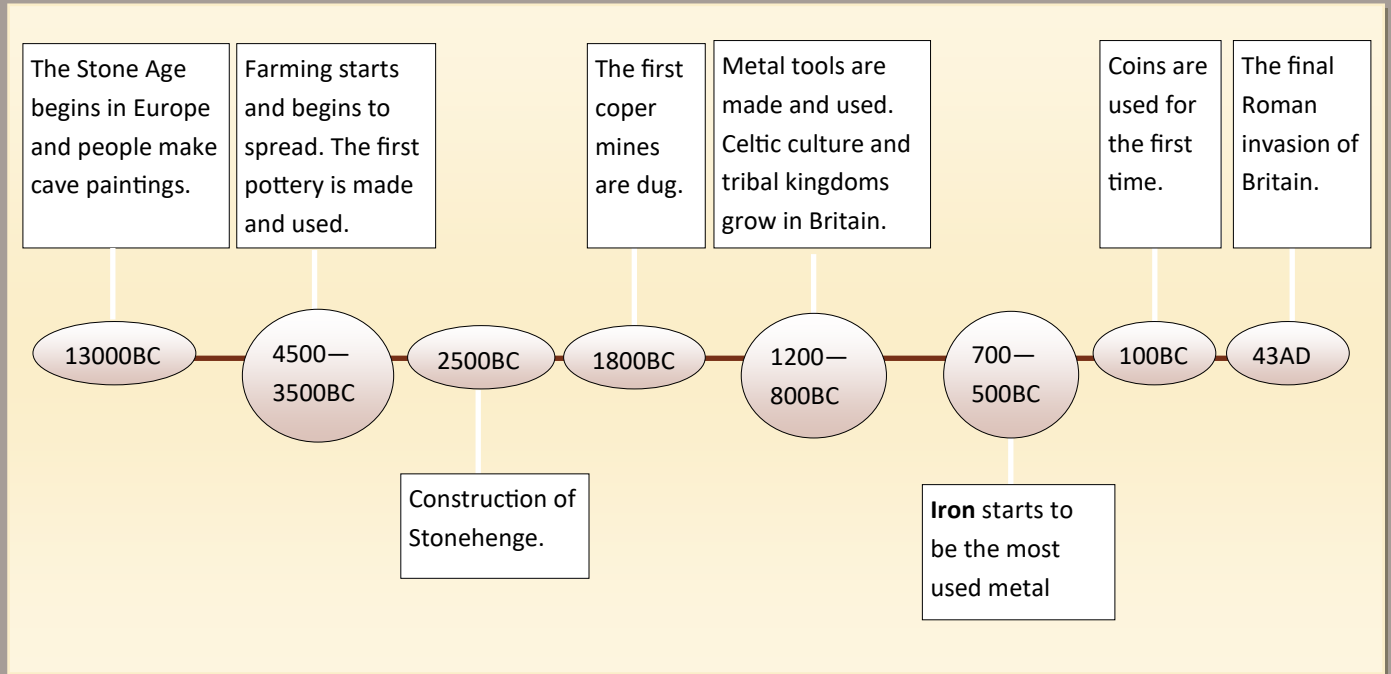
Key Locations

- The oldest known cave painting is a red hand stencil in **Cáceres in Spain**. It has been dated as older than 64,000 years and was made by a Neanderthal
- Cave paintings have also been discovered in **France and Argentina**
- The **Orkney Islands in Scotland** have stone houses that are 5500 years old. These are the oldest we know of
- The most well preserved example of ancient stone houses can be found at **Skara Brae** on the West coast of Mainland the largest Orkney Island

Key Vocabulary

- archaeologist**—a person who studies history and prehistory by digging for artefacts and examining them
- artefact**—a manmade object from history that gives you information about that time
- chronological**—the order in which things happened
- hillfort**—group of roundhouses built together on the top of a hill for defence by Iron Age people
- prehistoric**—before recorded history
- tribe**—group of people living and working together
- Palaeolithic**—the old Stone Age
- Mesolithic**—middle Stone Age
- Neolithic**—new Stone Age

Timeline of key events



Celtic-style Roundhouses

