



### Key questions:

What is history?  
What is prehistory?  
Is it true to say that Stone Age people were just simple hunter gatherers, only interested in food and shelter?



### Links to prior learning:

Key dates studied in relation to Stone Age (e.g. Great Fire of London)

# Prehistory

## History Y3: Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age

### Key Events and Facts

The Stone Age is the name given to the earliest period of human culture when stone tools were first used. The Stone Age ended when people began smelting metal.

#### Palaeolithic (old Stone Age) 2,500,000 BCE

During this time people began to use fire for cooking, develop early religions, and create art as can be seen in cave paintings dating back to this time.

#### Neolithic (new Stone Age) 4,000 BCE

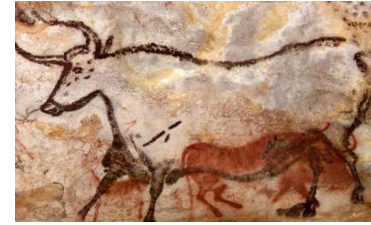
In the Palaeolithic, people were pure hunter-gatherers. In the Neolithic they were farmers in settlements with domesticated animals and wheat, tools and pottery.

#### Bronze Age 2,500 BCE

The Bronze Age is a time period when bronze replaced stone as the preferred material for making tools and weapons.

#### Iron Age 800 BCE

During this time, iron became the preferred choice of metal for making tools. Iron was tougher than bronze and could be shaped into finer and sharper objects.



### Amesbury Archer

The Amesbury Archer was an early Bronze Age man whose grave was discovered in Amesbury near Stonehenge.



### Key Vocabulary

**history** an interpretation or someone's account of the past. The past is everything that actually happened.

**prehistory** the time before written records.

**artefact** an object made by a human.

**archaeologist** a person who learns about the past by studying artefacts.

**smelting** to extract (metal) from its ore by a process involving heating and melting

**ore** is a type of mineral that contains other, more valuable minerals such as metals.

### Links to other subjects:

**Geography** – Key historical sites in Britain

**Science** – rocks and minerals

Palaeolithic period  
2,500,000 BCE

Mesolithic period  
8,500 BCE

Neolithic period  
4,000 BCE

Start of Ancient Greece  
2200 BCE

Bronze Age  
2,500 BCE

Iron Age  
800 BCE

Romans in Britain  
CE 43 to CE 410