

Homes – From Stone to Iron Age

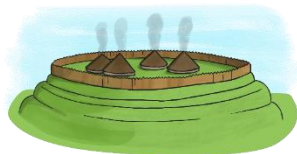
One thing archaeologists will try to establish is how the people of each time period lived. This is what we think their homes would have looked like.



Stone Age people lived in rock caves, but also may have lived in huts made of wood or covered in animal skins, with a fire in the middle. The Stone Age people usually moved home a lot. This started to change at the end of the Stone Age.



Bronze Age people settled in one place and had farms. They built roundhouses, which had a pole in the middle to hold up the roof. The roofs were made of animal hide, thatch or turf (grass). Their walls were covered with a muddy mixture.



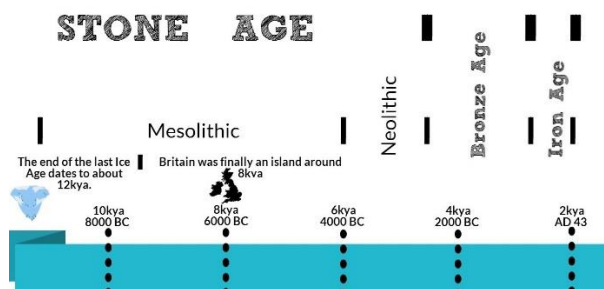
Iron Age people also often lived in roundhouses, although sometimes they were rectangular. What was different about the Iron Age houses was that the houses were gathered in communities on hills called 'hillforts'.

The earliest humans managed to survive by using sharp stone tools to kill animals, such as mammoths. They moved around from place to place in order to stay safe and warm, according to the time of year.

The Stone Age is incredibly long and historians divide it up into three parts.

The Stone Age ended when people started smelting metals. No one knows who invented bronze or how, but by around 3500 BC, farm tools and weapons are being made of this new metal in the Middle East.

The Iron Age followed the Bronze Age. The Iron Age took its name from the iron that was being used for tools, weapons and technology at the time. The people living in Britain during the Iron Age were called Celts.



Vocabulary Dozen

Neanderthal	An extinct species of human who co-existed with Homo Sapiens, but died out around 30000 years ago.
Homo Sapien	The scientific name for the type of human we are.
Prehistoric	A time before written records existed.
Flint	A hard rock which breaks into sharp splinters or blades.
Stonehenge	A prehistoric monument in England.
Hunter-gatherer	A human whose food comes from foraging and hunting animals.
Palaeolithic Age	The first part of the Stone Age. Started around 2.5 million years ago!
Mesolithic Age	The middle part of the Stone Age. It ended with agriculture.
Neolithic Age	The last part of the Stone Age. It started with agriculture.
Mining	Extracting valuable minerals or materials from the Earth.
Bronze	A type of metal (alloy) made mainly of copper.
Smelt	Extract metal from its ore using heating and melting.

Ideas to think about...

Do you think the people living in the Stone Age called it the Stone Age? Who do you think made up this name? Why? What do you think our 'age' will be called by historians?

Many of the creatures that early humans hunted were huge and fierce. How do you think the human were successful? What skills did they need?