

Stone Age to Iron Age - Prehistoric Britain

Timeline

800,000 BC - 10,500 BC	Palaeolithic Stone Age (Old or Ancient Stone Age)
10,500 BC - 4,000 BC	Mesolithic Stone Age (Middle Stone Age)
4,000 BC - 2,500 BC	Neolithic Stone Age (New Stone Age)
3,100 BC - 300 BC	Bronze Age
800 BC - 54 BC	Iron Age



Key Places and People

Beaker people	Beaker people arrived in Britain from Europe during the Bronze Age. Beaker people lived in clans led by powerful chiefs.
Amesbury Archer	The Amesbury Archer is an early Bronze Age man whose grave was discovered near Stonehenge.
Skara Brae	Skara Brae is a stone built Neolithic settlement, located on the Orkney Isles in Scotland. It is made up of a group of one-roomed circular homes.

How did settlements change from the Stone Age to the Iron Age?

During the Stone Age period, hunter gatherers lived in caves, simple huts, dens or tepees. In the Bronze Age, people started to live in settlements called roundhouses. Houses were made from wattle (sticks) and daub (mud).

During the Iron Age, people began to live in round houses on hill forts. Settlements became larger because tribes were better able to farm and defend themselves. The roofs of round houses during the Iron Age became thatched.

Why was the discovery of Amesbury Archer important?

In 2002, archaeologists working in Amesbury, Wiltshire made a significant discovery. Just two miles from Stonehenge, the grave of a Bronze Age man was found. He was buried with over 100 objects including ornaments made from Bronze, arrowheads and wrist guards.

These artefacts have led Historians to believe that the man was an archer at the time (a person who shoots with bows and arrows). The Archer is important because he is the first example of a powerful elite who may well have organised the erection of Stonehenge.

Key Vocabulary

roundhouse	A circular house made from wattle and daub.
hill fort	A settlement built on a hill so it could be easily defended.
smelting	A way of separating metal ore from rock by heating it.
discovery	Finding something for the first time.
trade	Buying and selling goods and services.
settler	A person who has made a permanent home.
settlement	A place where people live together.
wattle	A framework of woven sticks used to make walls.
daub	A mixture of mud, clay, animal dung and straw which was used as a building material.

