

Key Dates

800,000 BC	Earliest footprints in Britain
300,000BC	Palaeolithic period begins
10,000 BC	End of the last Ice Age Mesolithic period begins
8,000 BC	Neolithic period begins
4,000 BC	Adoption of agriculture
3,000 BC	Stonehenge started

In Norfolk **archaeologists** found an **ancient** stream channel containing woolly mammoth bones and stone tools, dating to about 60,000 years ago. The remains of at least 11 mammoths were found, Forty-seven handaxes were found at the site.



Stone Age

The term 'Stone Age' refers to a very long period of time that we can break up into three sections.

Palaeolithic to 10,000 BC

Mesolithic to 4000 BC

Neolithic to 2300 BC

In the early Stone Age, which we call the **Paleolithic**, people were **hunter gatherers** and they found food by roaming from place to place in different seasons.

The middle Stone Age, called the **Mesolithic**, began at a time when sea levels rose and Britain became an island (before this time Britain was joined to the mainland of Europe). During the Mesolithic period, tools were developed to become smaller and finer. The invention of canoes meant that people were better able to hunt for fish as well as animals.

In the late Stone Age, which is called the **Neolithic**, the way people lived changed a lot because they began to settle into farming villages instead of moving from place to place. People started to look after animals and grow their own crops.

Handaxes were used in the **Palaeolithic** period. They would have been held in the hand rather than attached to handles. Their sharp edges were used for chopping or cutting.



Key Vocab

Chronology	The arrangement of dates or events in the order in which they occurred.
BC	Before Christ. A way of dating years before the birth of Jesus. The bigger the number BC, the longer ago in history it was.
Archaeologist	A person who studies the buildings, graves, tools and other objects that belonged to people who lived in the past, in order to learn about their culture and society.
Historical evidence	Anything left over from the past is a source of evidence.
Hunter gatherers	People who found food from their local environment and then moved from site to site depending on the season. They moved wherever they needed to get food from
Prehistoric	Relating to or existing in the time before written history began
Palaeolithic	The prehistoric period when stone tools were made by humans.
Mesolithic	Also called Middle Stone Age, is an ancient cultural stage that existed between the Paleolithic (Old Stone Age) and the Neolithic (New Stone Age)
Neolithic	The youngest part of the Stone Age. The neolithic period is the time when farming was invented and when people started caring for animals, such as cows, sheep and pigs.
Ancient	Very old; referring to times in the distant past

Stonehenge

Found in Wiltshire, England, Stonehenge is a huge man-made circle of standing stones. Built by our ancestors over many hundreds of years, it's one of the world's most famous **prehistoric** monuments...And one of its biggest mysteries, too!

Work started on this super stone circle around 5,000 years ago in the late **Neolithic** Age – but it took over 1,000 years to build, in four long stages! Archaeologists believe the final changes were made around 1,500BC.

If you visit Stonehenge today, you'll see many of the enormous stones still standing strong in a circular arrangement. **Archaeological** research shows that the structure of this amazing monument changed over time, as it was built and rebuilt by generations of **ancient** peoples.



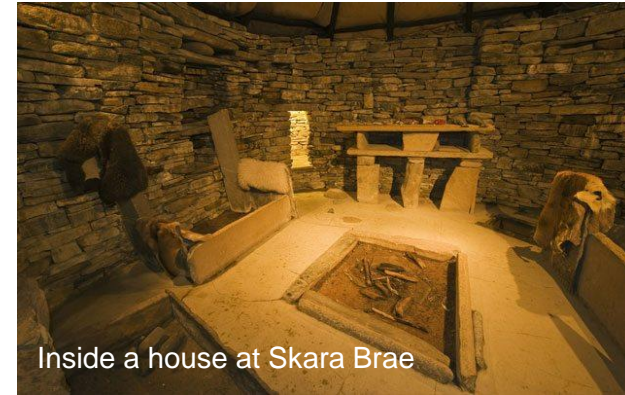
Stonehenge

Skara Brae

Found on the Orkney Islands off the north of Scotland, Skara Brae is one of Britain's most fascinating **prehistoric** villages. **Archaeologists** estimate it was built and occupied between 3000BCE and 2500BCE, during the Neolithic era. The village is older than the pyramids and Stonehenge!

Skara Brae is one of the best preserved Neolithic settlements anywhere in Western Europe – which makes it a super-special find for archaeologists. The amazing artefacts discovered at this incredible site give us an insight into what life was like in Britain during that time. They can teach us how the Neolithic people built their homes, as well as the work they did, the tools they used, the food they ate and much, much more!

Tools, crop remains and bones found at Skara Brae show the villagers weren't only skilled hunters and fishermen — they were expert farmers, too! They grew crops such as wheat and barley, and reared sheep, cattle and pigs. They were some of Britain's first ever farmers, in fact. Before the Neolithic period, people only hunted wild animals, and gathered wild fruit and vegetables to eat.



Inside a house at Skara Brae



Skara Brae



View of the settlement