

Key Vocabulary

AD - "In the year of our Lord". AD is used to show dates after the birth of Jesus.

archaeologist - a person who studies human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and the analysis of artefacts and other physical remains.

archaeology - the study of 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.

artefact - an object made by a human being, typically one of cultural or historical interest.

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.

chronology - the arrangement of dates or events in the order in which they occurred.

hunter-gathers - 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.

monument - a group of huge stones often set up in a line or circle, e.g. Stonehenge.

pre-historic - the time before recorded history.

Skara Brae - a stone-built Stone Age settlement.

settlement - place where people live together in a community.

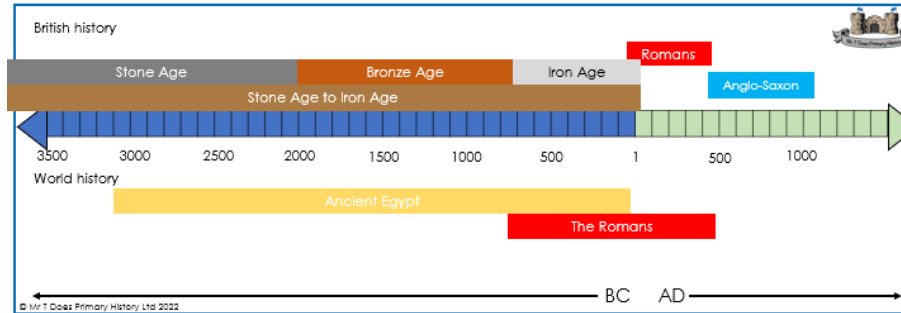
Stonehenge - a prehistoric monument in Wiltshire, England.

torc - important Celts like chieftains and warriors wore a neck ring called a torc.

tribe - people who lived in the same area and did similar things.



Year 3 & 4 History Knowledge Organiser – Prehistoric Britain



Stone Age

People used mostly stone tools • They didn't know how to make metal • They lived in caves or made shelters from trees, branches and animal skins • They ate berries, nuts, seeds and fruit • They also hunted animals for meat and caught fish in rivers • They used spears, bows and arrows to hunt • They cooked on a fire • Cave paintings were drawn as a good luck ritual for a hunt, to celebrate a hunt, for pleasure or to communicate a message • As hunter-gatherers, they moved around a lot • Towards the end of the Stone Age they started farming and created more permanent settlements (e.g. Skara Brae) • Stonehenge was built – its function is unclear.

Bronze Age

The Bronze Age was shorter than the Stone Age • It originated in the Middle East • People learnt how to make bronze from copper and tin • Bronze replaced stone as the preferred material for tools and weapons • Bronze was stronger and more durable resulting in better quality tools • Because of this, farming improved which led to changes in the way people lived • The Bronze Age people started to settle on hills as they were easier to defend • They used valleys to grow food and find shelter; farming developed further • They were able to create fabric for their clothes from weaving wool • The dead were buried with 'grave goods'.

Iron Age

Iron replaced bronze for making weapons and tools because it was stronger and could be shaped and moulded better. • The Iron Age was the shortest period of time and continued until the successful Roman invasion of Britain in 43AD. • Most Iron Age people worked and lived on small farms and their lives were governed by the changing of the seasons • The Celts were the people living in Britain during the Iron Age • Celts made clothes by hand-weaving wool dyed with natural vegetable dyes (plants and berries) • Iron Age people lived in roundhouses and in communities called Hillforts.

