



## Stone Age to Iron Age: CHANGES Fact-file

In the Stone Age around 12,000 BC people were nomadic hunters and they found food by roaming from place to place in different seasons.

Nomads began to settle into farming villages instead of moving from place to place (4,000 BC). People started to look after animals and grow their own crops.

Sea levels rose and Britain became an island (6,000 BC - before this time Britain was joined to the mainland of Europe).

In the Bronze Age, people discovered how to get metals out of rocks (2,300 BC). Bronze replaced stone as the best material for making tools and weapons.

In the Iron Age, iron replaced bronze as the main material for making tools and weapons. People lived in tribes and they were often at war with each other. Iron Age people began to protect themselves by settling in hillforts (1,200 BC).

In 120 BC coins were first introduced from Europe

In 43 AD the Romans invaded Britain

**Cave paintings** - Early humans may have used art as a way of helping themselves in their struggle for survival. Paintings of animals on cave walls are common



Flint stone



**Stone Henge** - a prehistoric monument in Wiltshire, England. It consists of a ring of standing stones, with each standing stone around 4 metres high. Its purpose and how it was built remains uncertain.

### Vocabulary

**BC** - BC is a way of dating years before the birth of Jesus. The bigger the number BC, the longer ago in history it was.

**AD** - means Anno Domini in Latin which stands for 'in the year of our lord'. A date such as 2020 AD means 2020 years after Jesus is believed to have been born.

**Chronological** - time order

**Nomadic** - A group of people that move from place to place in search of food and shelter

**Smelting** - A process to separate metal from rocks by heating and melting the metal

**Thatched** A thatched house or a house with a thatched roof has a roof made of straw or reeds.

**Archaeologist** Person who learns about the past by digging up artefacts and studying them

**Prehistoric** - the time before recorded history.

**Stone Age** - the name given to the earliest period of human culture when stone tools were first used.

**Bronze Age** - the time period when bronze replaced stone as the preferred materials for making tools and weapons

**Iron Age** - the time period when iron became the preferred choice of metal for making tools.

**Neolithic** - the youngest part of the Stone Age. The word "neolithic" comes from two words in Greek: "neo", meaning "new" and "lithic", meaning "stone". The neolithic period is the time when farming was invented and when people started caring for animals, such as cows, sheep and pigs.