



History

Autumn Term: Year 4

Key Vocabulary



Key Information



The first humans evolved in Africa. The first humans came to Britain around 700,000 BC.



Humans experimented with other raw materials including bone, ivory and antler when making tools.



Stone Age food varied over time, but included the foods: meats, fish, eggs, grasses, fruits, vegetables, seeds and nuts.



People lived in caves (hence the name cavemen) but other types of shelter were developed as the Stone Age progressed.



People moved around from place to place so that they could get the food and shelter they needed.



During the Iron Age, people lived in tribes and protected themselves by living in hillforts.

The Stone Age



The Stone Age is the name given to the earliest period of human culture when stone tools were first used. In Britain, the Stone Age was around 12,000 years ago.

The Stone Age is divided into three periods; the Palaeolithic (old Stone Age), Mesolithic (middle Stone Age) and the Neolithic (new Stone Age)

Palaeolithic and Mesolithic people were nomadic hunter gatherers. They moved frequently following the animals that they hunted and gathering fruits and berries when they could.

The dog was the first animal to be domesticated. This happened during the Mesolithic period. Dogs could help with the hunt, warn of danger and provide warmth and comfort.

The Palaeolithic period lasted for such a long time that it accounts for 99% of all human history.

Why is it called the Stone Age?

It is called the Stone Age because it is characterised by when early humans, sometimes known as cavemen or women, started using stone, such as flint, for tools and weapons. They also used stones to light fires. These stones are the earliest known human tools.

Stone Age	The Stone Age is a period in prehistory during which early humans started using stones, usually flint, to make tools and weapons.	
Hunter Gatherers	A hunter-gatherer is a human living a lifestyle in which most or all food is obtained by foraging and hunting.	
Forts	A fortified building or strategic position.	
Tribes	A social society consisting of families linked by social, economic, religious or blood tribes, with a common culture and dialect.	
Farming	After being hunter gatherers, Stone Age people eventually developed agriculture, which was and is the preparation of soil, planting crops, and raising animals.	
Hunting	Stone Age hunter-gatherers had to catch or find everything they ate. They moved from place to place in search of food. Early Stone Age people hunted with sharpened sticks.	
Chronological	Following events in the order in which they occurred.	
Cave Paintings	Cave paintings are a type of parietal art, found on the wall or ceilings of caves. The term usually implies prehistoric origin.	

300,000-150,000 years ago
Appearance of Homo sapiens in Africa

28,000-20,000 years ago
Use of needles, saws and harpoons

25,000 years ago
Earliest pottery

10,500 years ago
Cattle domesticated

8,000 years ago
Sheep and goats domesticated; irrigation began; wheel invented

7,500 years ago
First smelting of copper

6,000 years ago
Domestication of horse and chicken

5,500 years ago
Writing invented