



LEARNING AT HOME

STONE AGE TO IRON AGE

KS2 History: Changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age, with links to: KS2 Science, Design and Technology, Geography, English

What is Prehistory?

Prehistory means 'before history' and is the span of time before the invention of writing. How do we know what happened before the invention of writing if nothing was written down? We can use **archaeology!** Let's learn about prehistoric Craven with objects from Craven Museum:

THE STONE AGE

The Stone Age is split into 3 different sections, the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic.

The **Palaeolithic** took place 3.3 million years ago to 10,000 years ago.

In the paleolithic, the earliest humans were hunter-gatherers which meant they survived by hunting animals such as deer or fish, and gathered nuts and berries to eat. They moved around a lot to find food. They created tools made from stone to help them hunt animals and to make clothes from animal skins. Stone tools made during this period included hand axes, scrapers, projectile points and arrowheads as well as other tools such as antler hammers.



This is raw **flint**, a hard rock that was a primary material for stone age tools and weapons.

This is a paleolithic **hand axe** made from flint. Using another hard stone or antler as a hammer, small flakes would be chipped away to shape the flint.



The **Mesolithic** took place from 9,600BC to 4,000BC.

During this period hunter gathering still took place, however towards the end of the period farming was starting to take place.

During the Mesolithic, **Microliths** were created (small blades), bone harpoons and blades.

Spear and leaf-shaped arrows made from carved wood and shaped stone blades.



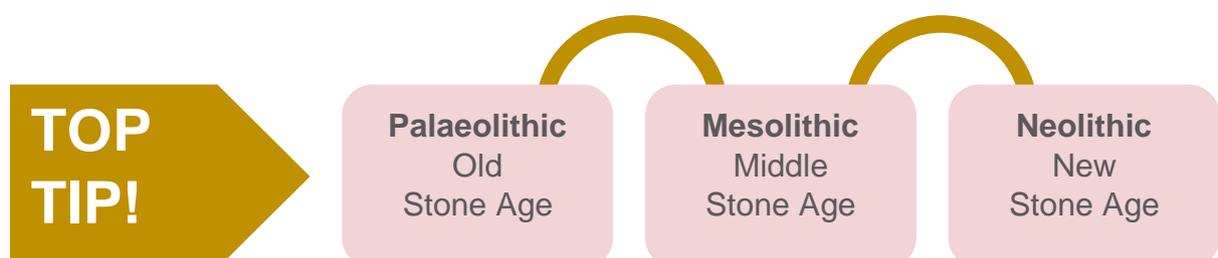
Paleolithic harpoon made from antler.

The **Neolithic** took place from 4,000BC to 2,500BC.

During this period farming began to take place and people were not moving around as much. Instead of moving around to hunt and gather food, people learnt how to herd animals and grow crops.

They developed tools to cut down trees so that they could grow crops such as wheat and barley. They also kept cattle such as sheep and pigs.

Pottery also began to take place, with basic bowls and urns to store food.



THE BRONZE AGE

The **Bronze Age** lasted in Britain from the end of the Neolithic in 2,500BC till 800BC.

This period was marked by people beginning to use Copper and then Bronze to make tools and weapons. Bronze is a mix of copper and tin and was used to make weaponry, jewellery and tools. Some of the items you find made out of Bronze are very intricately made and show excellent workmanship.



Cast part of a bronze sword.



Bronze Axe Head.

THE IRON AGE

The **Iron Age** in Britain started in 800BC at the end of the Bronze age to 100AD.

This period is marked by art, iron weaponry and iron jewellery. People were living in tribes during this time and spoke Celtic. People were coming from as far as the Mediterranean to trade products. Structures were starting to become more impressive with hillforts were being built.



Iron age sickle used for harvesting crops.



Decorative iron clothes pin.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

Create a prehistoric timeline.

Draw a prehistoric tool and describe what it is made of.

Write a story about who made your tool and how they used it.

Craven Museum and Gallery is currently being redeveloped, increasing the accessibility of the Museum and the collection, as well as creating new and innovative displays to tell the stories and showcase the treasures of the Craven Dales. We look forward to welcoming you to the museum when we reopen. Thank you to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, made possible by generous National Lottery Players!

