

Key Learning

Prehistoric refers to the time that was so long ago there were no written records.

Humans were hunter-gatherers who survived by hunting animals and finding plants to eat. They couldn't read or write so there are no written records of what life was like.

The prehistoric period is split into 3 time periods:



The Stone Age



During the early Stone Age people wore animal skins and sheltered in caves but by the late Stone Age people began to set up farms. Clearings were made in the forest and groups of houses were built.

They kept cattle instead of hunting and gathering for food and they grew plants to eat .



Weapons were made from sharp stones and wood.

Clothing was made from animal skins fixed together with bone needles.



The Bronze Age

Around 2100BC people from Europe travelled to Britain bringing with them their knowledge about mining and using bronze.

People learnt to tame horses and therefore they could be used to travel around the country, Wooden carts with wheels were later developed.



Archaeologists look for evidence to build up a picture of what life was like:



-Bumps and ridges in the land show what homes, villages and forts might have been like

-Tools and weapons show how people might have lived and what they may have eaten

-Human remains and their possessions can show when they lived.

-Cave paintings give clues as to what life may have been like.



The Iron Age

In 800BC people discovered iron and this was the start of the 'Iron Age'.



Different tribes fought against each other so many people lived in hill forts to protect themselves.

The newly discovered iron was used to make tools and weapons which made farming easier. It was also used to make jewellery.



Many things were used in the iron age to make life easier including: The rotary quern for grinding flour, the potters wheel for creating clay pots of different shapes and size and the pole lathe to carve wood.

The Iron Age ended in Britain in AD43 when the Romans arrived. Slowly, people stopped living in tribes and began to follow a Roman way of life.

Key Vocabulary

prehistoric	A time before written records began.
civilisation	An organised group of people with their own ways of life.
archaeologist	A person who studies history by excavating the land and looking carefully at artefacts .
excavate	Carefully removing earth from an area to find buried remains.
artefacts	An object made by a human.

Settlement	A place where a group of people begin to lie.
Hunter-gatherer	People who hunt and forage (search) for food to eat.
hillfort	A fort built on a hill which uses banks and ditches as protection.

Significant People/Places

Emperor Claudius—Sucessfully invaded Britian in 43AD and bought an end to the iron age.