History — Stone Age to Iron Age

Autumn Term — Year 3

Pre-history is the period of time before writing was developed. This period is known as BC (before Christ). From the **Stone Age**, cave paintings tell us what life was like.

Written records began in the UK in 43 AD, but other parts of the world had written records at different times.





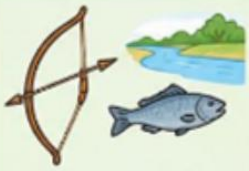
In the **Stone Age**, people used stones as tools and weapons. In the **Bronze Age** they discovered how to make bronze and that it was stronger than stone. In the **Iron Age** they discovered that iron was stronger still and they began to build **settlements** of roundhouses within **hillforts**.

Paleolithic
(c. 2.6 million – 10,000 BC)



- People were hunter-gatherers.
- Used stone tools and lived in camps and caves.
- Drew pictures on cave walls.

Mesolithic
(10,000 – 4,000 BC)



- People still hunted and gathered food, but also fished.
- Used smaller, finer stone tools.
- Started to live in more permanent settlements.

Neolithic
(4,000 – 2,500 BC)



- People began farming and keeping animals.
- Lived in settled villages.
- Made pottery and used polished stone tools.

Bronze Age
(2,500 – 800 BC)



- Learned to make bronze (a mix of copper and tin).
- Made better tools, weapons and jewellery.
- Built larger settlements and burial mounds.

Iron Age
(800 BC – AD 43)



- Learned to make iron (stronger than bronze).
- Made better tools, weapons and armour.
- Built hill forts and developed more complex communities.

Key Vocabulary

hunter– gatherers—people who hunted and gathered food
roundhouses– homes built in the Iron Age
settlement—a place where people live
bronze—a metal made from copper and tin
prehistory— the time before written records
hillfort—a defended settlement, often built on a hill
chronological—in time order

