

'What changed during the Stone Age?'

What time periods changed during The Stone Age?

The Stone Age is part of **Prehistory** and details the earliest human civilisations. It is called prehistory because there is no written evidence.

The Stone Age is divided into 3 parts.

Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age) 800,000 BCE – 10,000 BCE

Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) 10,000 BCE – 4,000 BCE

Neolithic (New Stone Age) 4,000 – 2,100 BCE

It was followed by The Bronze Age and Iron Age.

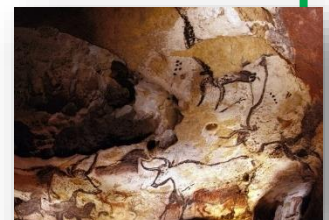
BCE means Before Common Era. We can also use BC which means Before Christ.

Palaeolithic (Stone Age)	Mesolithic & Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age	Roman Period	Anglo-Saxons
2 million – 10,000 BC	10,000 BC	2500 BC	800 BC	43 AD	400's
					

How did homes change through the Stone Age?

- **Palaeolithic (old) Stone Age** – early humans settled in simple caves to shelter from the cold during the Ice Age. People did not have the materials, skills or knowledge to build. **Evidence: cave paintings, bones, fires**
- **Mesolithic (middle) Stone Age** – a cone-shaped timber frame covered with animal hide, thatch or moss. **Evidence – Holes in the ground**
- **Neolithic (new) Stone Age** – round and rectangular houses made with wattle and daub.

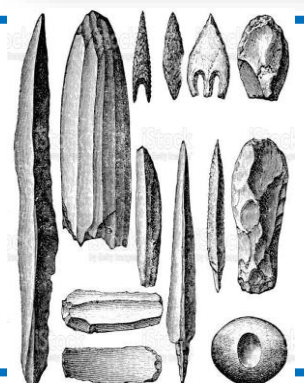
Evidence - piles of midden.

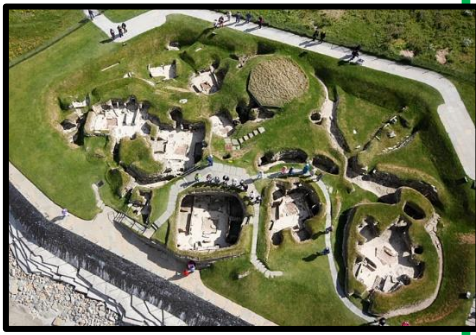


Why did weapons and tools change in the Stone Age?

- **Flint** – tools and weapons made by knapping.
- **Tools** – hand axe, bones, throwing stones, scraper...
- **Weapons** – arrow and spear heads to kill animals.

Stone was replaced by metal during the late Stone Age





The dwellings are made of stone and are connected by stone corridors.

How did communities change during the Stone Age?

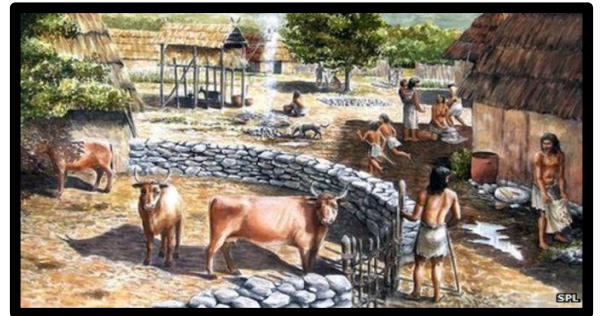
Skara Brae is one of the biggest Neolithic settlements in the world. It is in the Orkney Islands off the North-East coast of Scotland. It dates to around 3000 BCE.

Exposed by a great storm in 1850, four buildings were excavated during the 1860s by William Watt.

Evidence: gaming dice, tools, pottery, jewellery like necklaces, beads, pendants and pins. Carved stone objects, perhaps used in religious rituals.

Why did people change from nomadic hunter-gatherers to farmers?

1. Ice age ended and forests grew.
2. More animals in the forest e.g. *boar*.
3. Fish in the rivers and lakes e.g. *eel*.
4. People learned to grow crops e.g. *barley*.
5. People domesticated animals for meat, wool and milk e.g. *cattle and sheep*.
6. Tools, like axes, improved so more trees cleared for farms.
7. Communities grew larger.
8. People began to move from using stone to metal like bronze.



Key vocabulary

Spelling	Definition
<i>BCE</i>	<i>Before Common Era (BC – Before Christ)</i>
<i>CE</i>	<i>Common Era (AD1 to present day)</i>
<i>prehistoric</i>	<i>relating to the period or ages before written records</i>
<i>archaeologist</i>	<i>Someone who digs in the ground for clues about the past</i>
<i>artefact/evidence</i>	<i>An object that tell us how people lived</i>
<i>nomadic</i>	<i>People who travel from one place to another to live</i>
<i>Hunter-gatherer</i>	<i>People who hunt animals and forage plants to eat</i>
<i>farming</i>	<i>the activity of growing crops and raising livestock</i>
<i>wattle</i>	<i>A fence or wall made with wooden posts woven with twigs/ branches.</i>
<i>daub</i>	<i>A thick, sticky substance made from mud, grass and animal poo</i>
<i>midden</i>	<i>Pile of stones and bones on which neolithic houses were built</i>