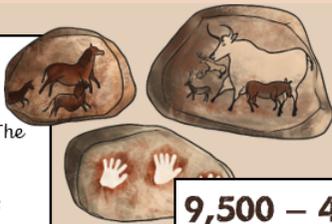


STONE AGE TIMELINE

15,000 – 10,000BC

The Lascaux Cave in France are thought to contain some of the oldest cave paintings. The paintings (and engravings) mainly depict animals but no one is sure of the original purpose behind them. They may have been: part or religious rituals; representations of everyday life; used to mark or record the passing of time, or as some sort of calendar; part of superstitious behaviour relating to hoping for a good hunt.



9,500 – 4,000BC

Mesolithic Period (Middle Stone age) People led largely nomadic lives as hunter-gatherers, constantly on the move in order to survive.

3750BC

Woolly mammoths start to die out. Until their extinction woolly mammoths were hunted by early humans for their meat and warm pelts.

2500BC

The stone age comes to an end as people start to use metal rather than just wood, stone, bone and animal skins. The Bronze Age begins.



10,000BC

5,000BC

4,000BC

3,000BC

2,000BC

15,000 – 9,500BC

Palaeolithic Period (Early Stone Age) People used simple stone tools and lived in caves.



The hunters used different weapons to kill their food. These could be made from bone, ivory, wood, antlers, stone or flint. The first early humans used stone axes, rocks and wooden spears that were hardened at

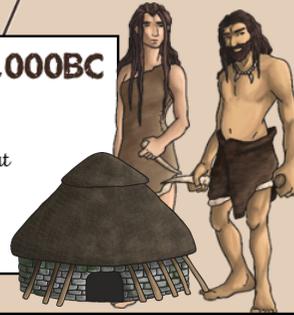


Hunting and Gathering



4,000 – 3,000BC

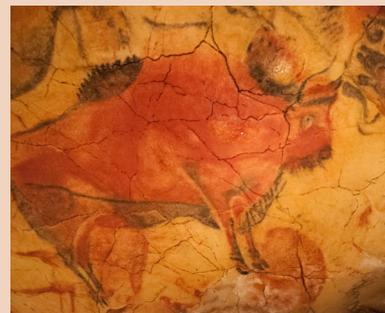
Neolithic Period (New Stone Age) This is the time that farming began, pottery was developed and villages were built.



The Stone Age diet would have varied according to what was locally available. They had access to a wide variety of natural foods like seeds, berries, nuts and roots and knew which plants were safe to eat. They would gather eggs as well as insects, snails and caterpillars.



Stonehenge is a very famous prehistoric monument in the South of England, in Wiltshire. It was built in several stages: the first monument was built about 5000 years ago with the unique stone circle added in the late Neolithic period, about 2500 BC.



Stone Age cave painting

Key Vocabulary

- **Archaeologist:** someone who digs up remains of old societies
- **Artefact:** an object left as evidence of life in an earlier time
- **bc(e):** Before Christ/Before Common Era
- **Domestication:** keeping animals such as cattle, rather than having them completely wild
- **Flint and flint knapping:** chipping flint into a usable shape •
- **Hunter gatherer:** a person who hunts and forages for food
- **Megaliths, henges, barrows, stone circles:** Stone Age monuments
- **Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age):** a period of history from around 9500 bce until around 4000 bce
- **Neolithic (new Stone Age):** a period of history from around 4000 bce until around 2000 bce
- **Nomad:** a person with no fixed home who travels around searching for food
- **Palaeolithic (early Stone Age):** a period of history from early humans until around 9500 bce