

**What should I already know?**

I know that historians use several sources to find out about the past.  
I can identify some key events in history that happened before I was born.  
I know that timelines help to map out when events occurred.

**History**

Historians are like good detectives: they are curious and ask important questions about the past.

**Technical vocabulary**

Stone Age	a period of history when weapons and tools were made from stone which began over 2 million years ago. Is divided into 3 periods: <b>paleolithic</b> (30,000 BC- 10,000 BC); <b>mesolithic</b> (10,000 BC - 8,000 BC); and <b>neolithic</b> (8,000-3,000 BC)
Bronze Age	3300 BC – 1200 BC. Period of history where man used bronze tools.
Iron Age	1200 BC – 43 AD. Period of history where man used iron tools.
Prehistoric	Time before written records.
Chronology	The time and order in which events happened.
Archaeology	The study of life and prehistory through the excavation of sites and analysis of remains
Hill fort	An Iron Age settlement built upon a hill for defense against tribes
Smelting	The process of extracting metal from its ore. Vital for producing bronze and iron.

**Historical Evidence**

The Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age are all **prehistoric** – there are **no written records** to tell us about them.

Instead, historians and **archaeologists** use:

- Cave paintings
- Human remains (skeletons)
- Animal remains
- Jewellery and coins
- Excavation of settlements (**Skara Brae**) to gain information about the past.

**Early British History**

**BC** – Before Christ – Happened before the year 0.

**AD** – Anno Domini – Happened after the year 0.

The **Stone Age** began **millions** of years ago and lasted all the way until **3000 BC**.  
**The Iron Age** ended in **43 AD** with the invasion of the **Romans**.

**Bronze Age**

- Tools were now made of **bronze** and were much **more efficient**
- Bronze Age people were mainly **farmers** and lived in **roundhouses**

**Stone Age**

- People were **nomadic** and moved around a lot in the early Stone Age. These people were **hunter-gatherers**.
- As **tools** developed and people could make **fire**, people transitioned into becoming farmers and having more permanent settlements

**Iron Age**

- Tools were made of **iron**, which was **more accessible than bronze**, and so farming and fighting with weapons became easier
- Iron Age peoples lived in **tribes** which were often at **war**. As part of their defence, they built and lived in **hill forts** – defensive structures built on a hill with **ditches**, a **dog-legged entrance path**, **ramparts** and a **large gate** to keep enemy tribes away.