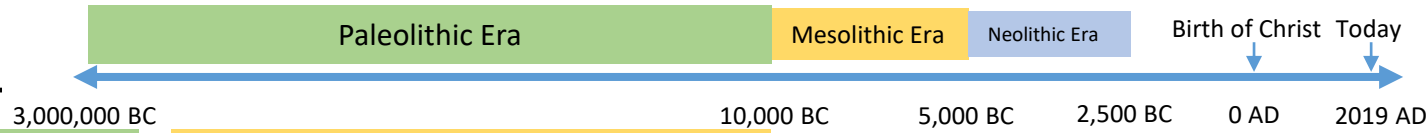


# The Stone Age



## Palaeolithic (*pay-lee-oh-lith-ick*)

### Old Stone Age

- **3,000,000 BC to 10,000 BC**
- First humans – homo habilis
  - Evolved to humans (homo sapiens) like us over millions of years.
- Most people died before they were 15 – **they had a really hard life.**
- No homes – people moved around a lot. Caves used as shelter.
- Created basic tools from stone (flint) like axes and spears.
- **Hunter gatherers** – they hunted animals and gathered plants to eat.
- Animals included woolly mammoths, cave bears and woolly rhinoceros’.
- Plants were tiny versions of some things that we eat today – tomatoes, apples, berries and potatoes.
- **Finished with the final Ice Age.**

## Mesolithic (*meh-so-lith-ick*)

### Middle Stone Age

- **10,000 BC to 5,000 BC**
- Melting ice forces Britain to be cut off from the rest of Europe – the Channel is created.
- Britain looks like an enormous forest.
- People are still hunter gatherers.
- They used more advanced, smaller tools (**microliths**) which helped to make life easier:
  - Bow and arrow
  - Canoes
  - Baskets (to collect fish and plants with)
- People began to live for longer – up to about 35 years old.
- The first houses (huts) were built.
- First forms of religion were created.
- Studies of skeletons have shown that people were extremely violent.

## Neolithic (*nee-oh-lith-ick*)

### New Stone Age

- **5,000 BC to 2,500 BC**
- The time when farming first began.
- Trees were chopped down to create areas where people could settle.
  - This changed the appearance of Britain **forever.**
- Humans still hunted animals but also began to grow food for themselves.
  - People could grow food for themselves and began to live longer (up to 50 years).
- The first buildings were built, mainly from enormous rocks (**megaliths**).
- Most have collapsed but we still have:
  - **Stonehenge** (one hour drive from Lawrence Weston)
  - Skara Brae (a whole village on an island in Scotland.)

## Key Vocabulary

**Prehistoric** – The time before history was written down

**Archaeologist** – Somebody who looks for evidence from prehistoric times

**BC (Before Christ)** – The years before Christ was born

**AD (Anno Domini)** – The years after Christ was born

**Chronology / Chronological** – In time order

**Evolution** – When things change over time

**Flint** – A type of sharp stone which was easy to make into tools.

**Microlith** – small, carefully carved tools that were created during the Mesolithic Era.

**Deforestation** – when humans chop a lot of trees down in forests.

**Agriculture** – breeding animals and growing plants on farms.

## Cave Paintings

- The oldest are about 40,000 years old.
- Art didn't exist before then because people had to work very hard just to survive.
- Often show pictures of humans hunting animals.
- Paint was a mixture of coloured rock and water.
- They painted with their fingers and twigs.



## Stonehenge

- Took about 1,500 years to build
- A ring of huge stones in the South West of England (it's close to Bristol!)
- Megaliths – huge pieces of stone
- Some stones came from Wales and took over 500 men (each!) to move.
- The biggest stones were 4 metres high and 2 metres wide.

