

Stone Age

History Knowledge Organiser
Autumn Term



What is the Stone Age?

The Stone Age lasted a very, very long time. The oldest period of the Stone Age, the Palaeolithic period, began approximately 2.5 million years ago. The Middle Stone Age is called the Mesolithic period. The Neolithic period, often called the New Stone Age, dates back approximately 8–10,000 years. During the Stone Age, our **ancestors** started to use tools and weapons made out of stone to help them hunt and eat food and they began to use metal to make tools and weapons.

Key Vocabulary for this Unit

ancestors	People who someone is descended from, older than a grandparent.
archaeologists	People who study the past by examining remains and objects.
c.	Stands for 'around' this time.
CE	Stands for 'Current Era'.
climate	The weather conditions of a place.
communal	Shared by a group of people.
consequence	Result or effect caused by something.
gathering	Collecting foods to eat.
historic sources	Things that give us information about the past.
hunting	Searching and killing an animal for food.
migrate	To move from one place to another.
nomadic	Travelling from place to place.
palaeolithic	The period of the stone age that lasted from 10,000BC to 8,000BC.
permanent	Lasting forever.
predators	Animals that kill and eat other animals.
scavenging	To search for and collect food.
sophisticated	Advanced.
technology	The use of scientific discoveries for practical purposes.



Main Events Timeline

- c.15000 BCE Lascaux cave paintings created
- c.3000 BCE: Stonehenge first built
- c.1930 CE: Oldowan toolkit identified 1940
- CE: Lascaux caves discovered

Food and Farming

In early Stone Age times, humans lived in small groups, using stone tools as they hunted for large mammals and gathered plants, fruit and berries. These hunter-gatherers were almost always moving to find food. About 10,000 years ago, as the **climate** warmed, certain crops like wheat and barley became widely available. Humans no longer needed to move around as much to find food and started building **permanent** homes to live in near land that they could farm. Early Stone Age humans moved in **nomadic** groups as they **hunted** sabre-toothed cats, woolly mammoths, bison and deer. They developed different tools to help them kill these large, dangerous animals. Some weapons and tools were made from bone, ivory or antler. Others were made by sharpening sticks. Nets made out of tree branches were used to catch fish and smaller animals. Also, in the late Palaeolithic period, humans started using bows and arrows to help them catch prey.