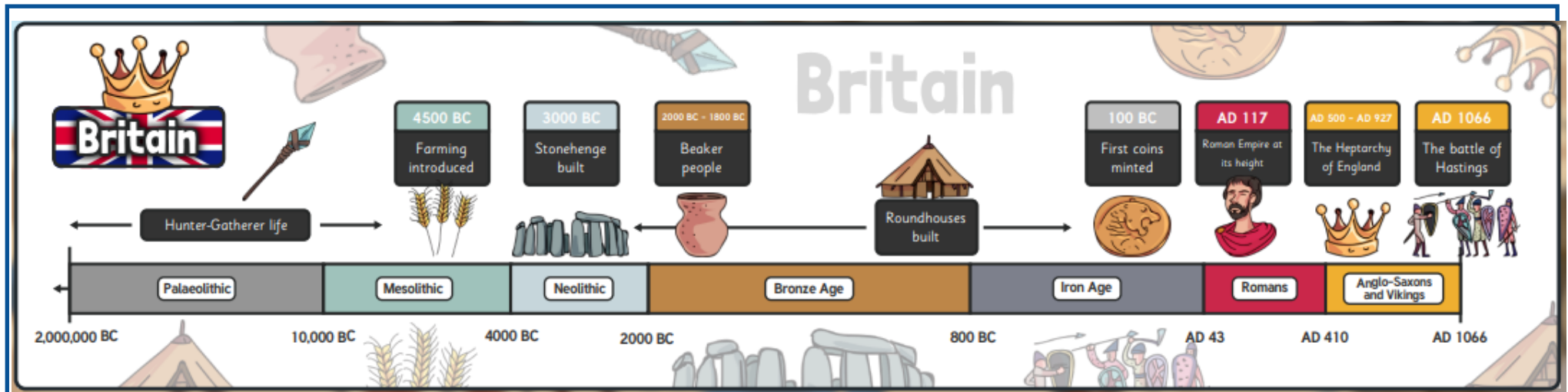




# Through the Ages: How did Britain change from the Stone Age to the Iron Age?

## Year 3 History



### Palaeolithic (or Old) Stone Age

The Palaeolithic period was longer than any other time in the Stone Age and any other period in human history. In Britain it started around 800,000 BC. People were hunter-gatherers and moved around dependent on the food available.

### Mesolithic (or Middle) Stone Age

The Mesolithic period started in Britain from around 10,000 BC, around the end of the Ice Age. People were still hunter-gatherers but towards the end of this time in the Stone Age, they began to learn about agriculture and farming.

### Neolithic (or New) Stone Age

The Neolithic period started in Britain from around 4,000 BC. People started to live in permanent settlements after farming had been introduced by people migrating from Europe.

## Stone Age

**Tools and weapons** – Tools were made from stone, wood and bone. They were used for digging, hunting and chopping.

**Everyday life** – Stone Age people were hunter-gatherers. They followed and killed animals and gathered seasonal food. They made clothes from animal skins and created cave art.

**Settlements** – People lived in temporary shelters or caves in the Palaeolithic. People lived in more permanent settlements in the Neolithic.



**Beliefs** – People built monuments, including stone circles, henges and earthworks. Historians believe that they used these monuments for gatherings and worship.

**End of the Stone Age** – The Beaker folk arrived from Europe and brought their knowledge of metalworking to Britain.

## Bronze Age

**Tools and weapons** – Bronze tools were sharper, stronger and more efficient than stone tools. Bronze tools were owned by the wealthy.

**Everyday life** – The Beaker folk brought their knowledge of metalworking and pottery making to Britain. Bronze tools made farming more efficient, so there was more food and the population grew.

**Settlements** – People lived in permanent settlements, in roundhouses. They used walls and fences to protect their homes.



**Beliefs** – People were buried with objects, including Bell Beaker pottery, to use in the afterlife. They threw weapons and objects into rivers as offerings to the gods.

**End of the Bronze Age** – People stopped using metal during a time called the Bronze Age collapse.

## Iron Age

**Tools and weapons** – Iron tools and weapons were sharp and strong. Everyone could own iron tools and weapons, not just the wealthy.

**Everyday life** – Iron tools made farming more efficient and iron weapons were available to everyone. Tribes attacked each other to steal their land, food and possessions. People created art, music and poetry.

**Settlements** – People lived in hillforts surrounded by ditches and fences to stop attacks from enemy tribes. People lived in roundhouses inside the hillfort and farmed the land outside.



**Beliefs** – Priests called druids led worship. Humans were sacrificed as offerings to the gods. People threw votive offerings into rivers and lakes.

**End of the Iron Age** – The Romans invaded and conquered Britain in AD 43. They created written records, so this event ended prehistory in Britain.

## Glossary

**AD:** 'anno Domini' (in the year of our Lord) - used to show a date after AD 1. This counted forwards, so AD 100 is before AD 200.

**archaeologist:** someone who studies artefacts from the past.

**artefact:** an object made by a person that is of historical interest.

**BC:** 'Before Christ' - used to show that a date is before the year AD 1. This is counted backwards, so 200 BC is before 100 BC.

**bronze:** a metal alloy made by mixing metal and tin.

**Celts:** a group of people who travelled from Europe and brought their iron-working skills to Britain.

**hunter-gatherer:** a person who moves from place to place in search of food; surviving by hunting fishing and collecting berries, fruits and seeds.

**prehistoric:** from a time in the past before there were written records.

**settlement:** a place where people live together in a community.