

# Year 3: Autumn 1 2022 Knowledge Organiser: The Iron Age

In History this half term we are learning about the Iron Age. We shall look back at previous Ages: Stone and Bronze and identify what triggered the shifts. We shall explore settlements such as Skara Brae and Stonehenge and look for clues that will help us make out what kind of life the Stone Age people lived: diet, religion, tools, etc. The discovery of iron drastically changed the ways of life of the Iron Age people! We shall explore how iron improved farming, improved tools and weapons and changed relationships amongst tribes. In order to prepare for this exciting unit of learning, your task is to design a project about The Stone Age, Bronze Age or Iron Age. Your project will use recyclable materials and can be a poster, booklet, model or anything else you can think of! Be as creative as you like. Below are some ideas:

A 3D model of a Stone Age/Iron Age village.    The tools made from stones    Tools made from iron    The uses of fire    Farming in the Iron Age  
Animals that lived in the Stone Age    Stonehenge model    Tourist brochure of Stonehenge

## The Stone Age and the major discoveries

The Stone Age was a time 5000 years ago, when humans lived in caves and jungles. Life was simple, and there were only two main things to do – to **protect** themselves from the wild animals and to **gather** food. Humans used primitive tools made out of stones. This is why it is called the Stone Age. Early humans, sometimes known as **cavemen**, started using stone, such as flint, for tools and weapons. These stone tools are the earliest known human tools. In the early Stone Age, people made simple hand-axes out of stones. They made hammers from bones or **antlers** and they sharpened sticks to use as hunting spears.



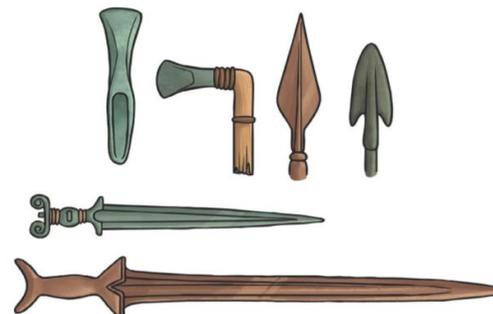
## The discovery of fire

Early humans used pieces of flint stones rubbed together to create sparks. They may have rubbed two sticks together generating enough heat to start a blaze. Conditions of these sticks had to be ideal for a fire.

## The Bronze Age

The Bronze Age is the name given to the period of time between the Stone and Iron Ages. In Britain, the Bronze Age started around 2100BC and ended around 650BC. Bronze is an **alloy** or mixture of **tin** and **copper**. The discovery of bronze meant tools and weapons were stronger and more **efficient**. Bronze is a hard, yellowish alloy, or mixture of metals. People make it by melting copper and tin together.

Bronze was used for making a wide range of armour and weapons, such as daggers, blades, spearheads, chisels and axes.

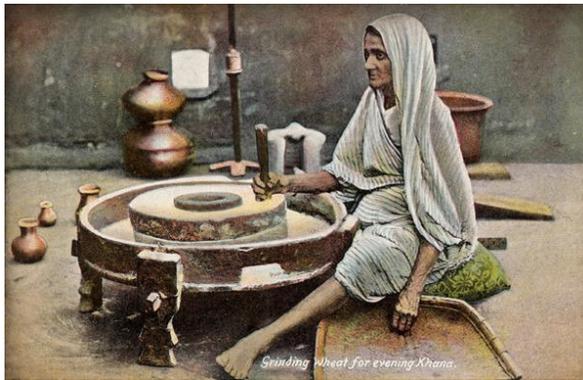


## The Iron Age

The Iron Age' is the name given to the time period (from approximately 500 BC to 43 AD in Britain) where iron became the preferred choice of metal for making tools. In Europe, The Iron Age marks the end of prehistory after the Stone Age and the Bronze Age. Iron was tougher than bronze and could be shaped into finer and sharper objects. It required **smithing** (heating and hammering) to make into tools and implements. Iron farming tools, such as sickles and plough tips, made the process more efficient and allowed farmers to **exploit** tougher soils, try new crops and have more time for other activities. A variety of tools and weapons such as axes, ploughs, sickles, shovels, spears were made. These tools could cut trees and kill big animals easily. Stronger and bigger wheels for the carts were made.



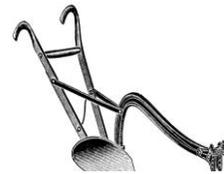
### The rotary quern



One of the most important and time-saving inventions of the Iron Age was the **rotary quern** which was used for grinding grain to make flour. The grain was placed between two circular stones and the top stone was turned or rotated using a handle.

### The iron plough

Iron ploughs called **ards** were more efficient than earlier bronze or wooden ploughs. This meant they could till heavier soils so more land could be used for farming. As farming became more productive the population began to rise.



### The problems: warfare



With sharper weapons came problems. For those of fighting age—both man and woman alike—it was a violent time. There were constant raids by other clans in attempts to steal **livestock**, for that was their wealth and your food. This meant that clans were engaged in frequent small battles. People were injured and these injuries often led to infection and death.