



History focus

Stone Age

Year 3

Spring Term 1

## What? (Key Knowledge)

The period known as the Prehistoric Age spans from the last Ice Age in 800,000 BC to the Roman invasion in 43 AD. The majority of the period is commonly referred to as the Stone Age. During this period, humans moved from being hunter-gatherers to farmers.

The Stone Age gets its name from the stone used to make tools and weapons. Flint was dug up using picks and shovels made from bones and antlers. The flint was then shaped using a hard rock in a process known as knapping.

Towards the end of the time period, people discovered how to make things from metal. The spread of the use of metal was very gradual, from the Stone Age into the Bronze Age.

In the Palaeolithic period, people used very simple tools made from wood, bone and stone. During this period, they moved around to find food and lived in simple shelters or caves.

In the Mesolithic period, their tools gradually became more sophisticated. They made tiny sharp flint blades that were called microliths. They led more settled lives, and sometimes stayed in the same place for long periods of time.

In the Neolithic period, people began to build permanent homes and kept a range of animals including cattle, sheep, goats and boars. Tool design changed to make farming more efficient.

## Experiences

- Residential Trip to Burwardsley to experience 'a day in the life of the Stone Age'.
- Visit from staff at Beeston castle to bring artefacts for children to study and use.
  - Link to 'Stone Age Boy' text in Literacy sessions.

## What? (Key Vocabulary)

Palaeolithic Period	The earliest period of the Stone Age.
Mesolithic Period	The middle period of the Stone Age
Neolithic Period	The last period of the Stone Age.
Chronology/ Chronological	The arrangement of dates or events in the order in which they occurred.
Archaeology	The study of remains from the past.
Artefact	A man-made object.
Monument	A structure to remember an event of person.
Settlement	A place where people come together to live.
Prehistory	A time before written history.
Hunter-gatherer	People who found food from their local environment and then moved from site to site depending on season.

## Diagrams and Symbols

**Skara-Brae** is a Neolithic settlement in the Orkney Islands.

**Star Carr** was a Mesolithic hunting camp near Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

**Stonehenge** is a Neolithic stone monument near Salisbury, Wiltshire.

