



Changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age

The **Stone Age** is split into three periods.

- **Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age)**: people were hunter-gatherers and used basic stone tools.
- **Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age)**: people still hunted and gathered but began to live in small groups.
- **Neolithic (New Stone Age)**: people started farming, building permanent homes and using polished stone tools.

- The **Stone Age**, **Bronze Age**, and **Iron Age** are all part of **prehistory** (before written records).
- Archaeologists use artefacts to learn about the past.

Humans changed from **nomadic hunter-gatherers** (moving around to find food) to **settled farmers** (growing crops and keeping animals).

Tools and weapons changed over time:

- Stone tools in the Stone Age.
- Bronze tools in the Bronze Age.
- Iron tools in the Iron Age.

Barrows are earth burial mounds built in prehistory (especially the Bronze Age).



Vocabulary

prehistory	the time before people wrote things down
artefact	an object made or used by people in the past
hunter-gatherer	someone who hunts animals and gathers wild plants for food
nomadic	moving from place to place, not staying in one home
settlement	a place where people live

Around 2400 BC, the **Beaker** people came to Britain.

- They brought new customs, beliefs and technologies (the "Beaker package").
- They also helped to develop **Stonehenge** as a ceremonial and burial site.

