

Knowledge Organisers – Rocks to Rust



Timeline

2,000,000 BC	The first real humans (<i>Homo habilis</i>) appear - They used simple stone tools and built shelters
1,600,000 BC	' <i>Homo erectus</i> ' appears - They were skilful hunters and killed animals to eat using spears
650,000 BC	Early humans start to use hand axes
500,000 BC	The first members of the <i>Homo</i> genus live in Britain
200,000 BC	Great sheets of ice cover Britain and food becomes scarce - Early humans are forced to leave
100,000 BC	Neanderthals make it to Britain, coping with the cold weather by living in caves and making warm clothes from animal skins
35,000 BC	<i>Homo sapiens</i> arrive in Europe and Neanderthals die out
12,000 BC	The earliest humans that are direct descendants of some of the current population arrive in Britain and woolly mammoths die out in Britain
10,000 BC	'The Ice Age' comes to an end in Britain - This marks the beginning of the Mesolithic period
6,000 BC	Britain is cut off from the continent by rising sea levels
4,000 BC	Farming begins and crops such as barley and wheat are grown
3,000 BC	The first part of Stonehenge is built

Key Vocabulary

BC – Stands for 'before Christ.'

Bronze – A metal made of copper and tin.

Bronze Age – The period of time that came after the Copper Age and before the Iron Age.

Copper Age – The period of time that came after the Neolithic and before the Bronze Age.

Flint – A hard, shiny rock that can be used to make tools and weapons.

Homo sapiens – Early man.

Hunter-gatherer – A person who hunts animals and forages for food. They don't farm.

Iron Age – The period of time that came after the Bronze Age.

Mammoth – A large, hairy elephant-like animal with curved tusks.

Mesolithic – Early Stone Age before farming.

Neanderthal - A sub-species of a human, now extinct.

Neolithic – The period of the Stone Age when people started farming.

Settlement- A place where people live



Knowledge

- The stone age happened thousands of years ago.
- This time is called the Stone Age because we think that the people alive then used mostly stone tools.
- They didn't know how to make metal so did not have metal knives or cooking pots or many things we have today. Life was very different.
 - They lived in caves or made shelters from trees, branches and animal skins.
- For many thousands of years, they didn't realise you could farm crops by deliberately growing them or keep animals for their milk or eggs. Instead, they gathered food they found growing such as berries, nuts and fruits.
- As well as this, they hunted animals for meat and caught fish in rivers. That's why they were called hunter-gathers.
- People started farming about 13,000 years ago. But in Britain they did not learn this until about 6000 years ago.
- Once farming started, people began to stay in one place for a long time (settle) rather than move about. They lived in settlements.
- This was good because they had more food but bad because people had fights about who owned the land and diseases spread more easily.
- 2700 years ago people in Britain started making objects from iron.
- Iron age people in Britain were called the Celts and we use the adjective Celtic to describe the things they made.
- Iron age houses were round and made from wood, straw, mud and even animal poo (dung)
 - The Iron age ended when the Romans invaded Britain
- Prehistory is the time before people started writing. The Stone Age and the Iron age are part of prehistory because the people didn't know how to write.
- Archaeologists learn about prehistory by digging for objects from the past. They use these to find out more about people or places from long ago.
- For example, archaeologists have found bones, tools clothes and jewellery from long ago.
- But most stuff from the Stone Age will have rotted away.
 - When we find things that are actually from the time being studied (like a bone) that is a primary source
 - If we read about it from someone who wasn't actually alive then, that's called a secondary source.