

History Knowledge Organiser: Year 3 – The Stone Age

Prior Knowledge

Pupils should have a secure knowledge of historical vocabulary and be able to deploy them both verbally and in their written work, including 'past', 'present', 'period' and 'before our time'. Pupils should have a secure understanding of what is meant by 'chronology', and how it is used to study the past. The discipline of history should be clear to pupils, and they should understand how and why people study history and the types of jobs that history includes. Students should recognise where key people and events they study, both in British history and in world history, fit within a chronological framework. Pupils should now feel confident in their ability to ask and answer questions, choosing and using parts of stories and other sources to show that they know and understand key features of events. They should understand some of the ways in which we find out about the past and identify different ways in which it is represented.

Diagrams



Crucial monuments (Stonehenge, Woodhenge and Avebury stone circle) and flint tools and weapons.

Vocabulary

Archaeologist: a person who studies history and prehistory by excavating sites and looking at artefacts and other physical remains.
Archaeology: the study of human activity through the recovery and analysis of material culture.
Artefact: an object made by a human being, typically one of cultural or historical interest.
Cave paintings: The term given to the cave and rock art found in Europe. They were usually painted on using charcoal, animal fat or blood, mud and ochre, a type of clay. They are also found in other non-European civilisations.
Excavation: an organised archaeological dig, usually of a site with religious and/or historical importance.
Mesolithic: the time between the Palaeolithic and the Neolithic period (c. 10,000-6,500 BC).
Neolithic: the final division of the Stone Age, began about 12,000 years ago (c. 6,500-3000 BC).
Palaeolithic: the first phase of the Stone Age, lasting about 2.5 million years, when primitive stone implements were used (c. 15,000-10,000 BC).
Stone Age: The Stone Age was a broad prehistoric period during which stone was widely used to make implements with an edge, a point, or a percussion surface. The period lasted roughly 3.4 million years and ended between 8700 BCE and 2000 BCE.
Stonehenge: A significant monument from the time of the Neolithic period, which was used until the Late Bronze Age.

Intended Unit Outcomes

By the end of this unit, the pupils should:

- Understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims.
- Have a secure understanding of prehistoric chronology.
- Understand the importance of Stonehenge, the surrounding theories of its purpose, the most recent findings, and how it can be utilised to discover key information regarding Stone Age people's religious beliefs and their understanding of their calendar.
- Understand how daily life changed through the three main sections of Stone Age Britain.
- Understand the role of archaeologists in collecting evidence and how this is open to interpretation.
- Recognise the key components of a typical Stone Age person's diet.
- Recognise the key features of Stone Age art and its role and purpose in society.
- Understand what is meant by 'prehistory' and what that entails in terms of the types of evidence that is available.
- Have a secure and in-depth understanding of daily life in Stone Age Britain and how that was dependent on food supply and the seasons.
- Understand the difference between artefacts and organic evidence and primary and secondary sources.
- Understand the importance of artefacts in posing historically valid questions, analysing ancient civilisations and how evidence such as artefacts are used to make historical claims and form facts.
- Recognise and understand the chronology Stone Age Britain and that it varies from other cultures.
- Learn that in Stone Age Britain, people lived in nomadic tribes and travelled where food went.
- Discover what life was like for a typical Stone Age person and question which familial position was more beneficial and why?
- Understand the key features of Stone Age religious beliefs and how these were expressed.

Sources and Artefacts

Investigations of flint, bones, shells, figurines and 'organic evidence' will be utilised and applied in their learning to draw conclusions.

Historical investigation and enquiry skills

Using prior KS1 knowledge and historical examinations, pupils should begin to draw contrasts between 20th century and prehistoric Britain. Children will be able to look at the contrasts in daily life (for example, that Stone Age people lived as hunter-gatherers, whereas development in travel, technology and travel has resulted in an utterly different daily life). Children need to be given a broad timeline, so that they can place prehistoric Britain in historical perspective. By the end of this unit, pupils will have a greater understanding of using evidence such as artefacts and modern written sources to ask historically valid questions and form their own informed opinions. Children will recognise the different types of evidence available.

Timeline/Chronology

15,000-10,000 BC: Palaeolithic period. The Lascaux Cave in France are thought to contain some of the oldest cave paintings. The paintings and engravings depict animals, but no one is sure of the original purpose behind them. They may have been part of religious rituals; representations of everyday life; used to mark or record the passing of time, or as some sort of calendar; part of preparation for a successful hunt. Animal hides were used to make tents during this time.
8,500-7000 BC: The earliest known structures found near Stonehenge, which are described as 'similar to totem-poles'.
8,200 BC: The last 'land bride' from Lincolnshire and East Anglia to Holland is taken over by salt marsh, eventually, by around 6,000 BC it disappears altogether and is taken over by sea water. This water is a result of the great ice sheets from the last ice age thawing.
4,500-3,500 BC: People begin to make simple pottery and farming starts to spread.
4,000-3,000 BC: People start to domesticate and ride horses. Before this, people could only travel by foot.
3,750 BC: Woolly mammoths start to die out. Until their extinction woolly mammoths were hunted by early humans for their meat and warm pelts.
3,500-3,350 BC: The earliest well-dated images of a wheeled vehicle (a wagon) dates from this period. It was discovered on a clay pot found in Poland.
3,000 BC: Construction of Stonehenge began.
2,500 BC: The Stone age comes to an end as people start to use metal rather than just wood, stone, bone and animal skins. The Bronze Age begins.