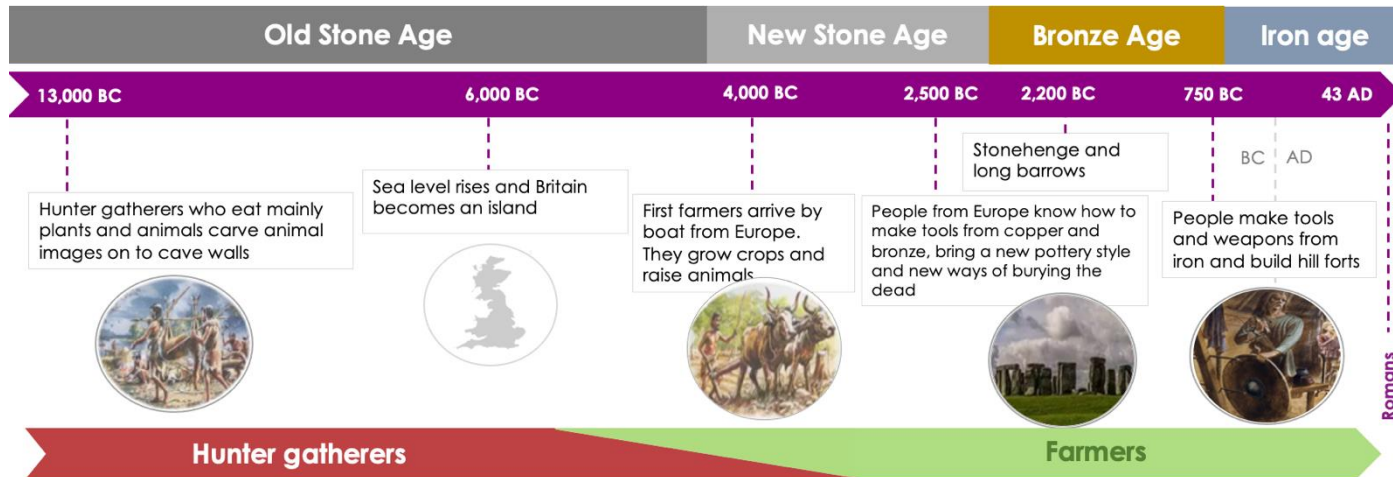


Why this time period is important

The earliest known humans arrived in these lands around 900,000 years ago. During this time there were huge changes: the ice covering Britain melted; instead of hunting all the time, people learned to farm and make metal tools; they found time to worship. There is still evidence we can see around us today, such as Stonehenge, long burial mounds and hill forts which are thousands of years old. This, before the Romans invaded is often called prehistoric.



Vocabulary Dozen

<b>Prehistory</b>	Prehistory is the time before written records.
<b>Artefact</b>	An object made by human beings from a long time ago.
<b>Palaeolithic</b>	Earliest period of the Stone Age when chipped stone tools were used
<b>Mesolithic</b>	Middle Stone Age
<b>Neolithic</b>	New Stone Age
<b>Prehistoric</b>	Before the Romans and written records
<b>Hunter-gatherer</b>	People who mainly live by hunting, fishing and gathering wild fruit.
<b>Archaeologist</b>	People who work out our history by looking at artefacts that have been found.
<b>Nomadic</b>	Someone who lives by traveling from place to place.
<b>Settlement</b>	A community of people living in a particular place.
<b>Skara Brae</b>	A preserved Neolithic village
<b>Hillfort</b>	Settlements on higher ground to make it easier to defend

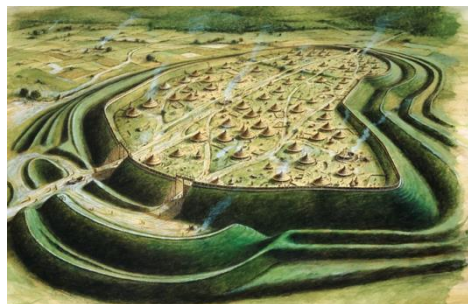
Skara Brae

Skara Brae is a stone-built Neolithic settlement, located on the Bay of Skail on the west coast of Mainland, the largest island in the Orkney archipelago of Scotland.



Hillforts

In the Iron Age, hundreds of people lived in Hillforts. They built the fort to protect themselves. They could see attackers better from high up. This also made the hill fort look **impressive** to show off the power of the people who built it.



Key Questions



- What is prehistory?
- What was life like in the Paleolithic and Mesolithic period?
- What can we learn from Skara Brae about Neolithic life?
- How and why did bronze replace stone in the Bronze Age?
- Why did they build Stonehenge?
- Why were hill forts developed in the Iron Age?