

# The Stone Age

The Stone Age covers a huge period of time, over 3 million years! It starts from when the first human-like animals came into existence. The earliest evidence has been found in Africa. Early humans arrived in Britain more than 800,000 years ago, but Britain has not been constantly lived in since that time due to climate changes. The ice and the cold temperatures during the last period of time, known as the Ice Age, meant that early humans left Britain in search of warmer climates. At this time, Britain was not an island, so they could walk across the land into Europe and Africa.

The Stone Age is called so because the earliest humans used stone to make tools with a sharp edge or point. Stone was the material predominantly used for tools throughout the Stone Age.

## Stone Age Time Periods

### **Palaeolithic: 3,000,000BC**

During this long period of time, the earliest hominids (humans or close relatives of humans), homo habilis, who used simple stone tools, slowly developed into the modern humans we call homo sapiens. Britain was still connected by land to France and Denmark.



### **Mesolithic: 10,000BC**

People led largely nomadic lives as hunter-gatherers, constantly on the move in order to survive. It was during this time that Britain had become an island.



### **Neolithic**

This is the time that farming began, pottery was developed and villages were built.

