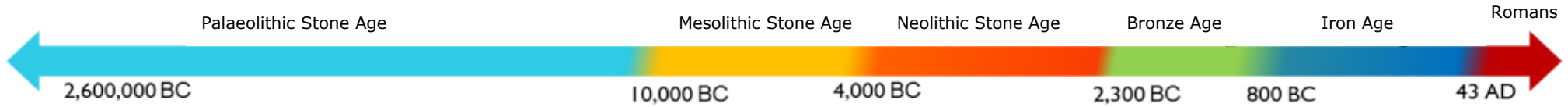


Who left the best legacy: The Stone Age, The Bronze Age or The Iron Age?

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Knowledge

Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age)

- People were nomadic hunters and they found food by roaming from place to place in different seasons.
- People used very simple tools made from wood, bone and (most importantly) stone.

Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age)

- Tools were developed to become smaller and finer.
- They made sharp tiny flint blades that were called microliths.

Neolithic (New Stone Age)

- People began to settle into farming villages building more permanent homes instead of moving from place to place.
- People started to look after animals and grow their own crops.

The Bronze Age

- People discovered how to get metals out of rocks.
- Bronze (a type of metal made from copper and tin) replaced stone as the best material for making tools.
- People were able to build better farming equipment and they also began to make bronze weapons.

The Iron Age

- Iron, which was more durable, replaced bronze as the main material for making tools and weapons.
- People lived in tribes and they were often at war with each other.
- Iron Age people began to protect themselves by settling in hillforts.

How do we know?



Cave paintings - Early humans may have used art as a way of helping themselves in their struggle for survival. Paintings of animals on cave walls are common. The famous cave paintings at Lascaux in southwest France are about 18,000 years old.



Stone Age tools



Roundhouse



Stone Henge - a prehistoric monument in Wiltshire, England. It consists of a ring of standing stones, with each standing stone around 4 metres high. Its purpose and how it was built remains uncertain.



Maiden Castle - one of the largest and most complex Iron Age hillforts in Europe. It is located in Dorset, England. It was built around 100 BC and once protected hundreds of residents.

Vocabulary

Evolution - A gradual process of change over time.

Prehistoric - Before written records began.

Hunter-gatherer - A member of a nomadic group who hunt or harvest food that grows in the wild.

Nomadic - A group of people that move from place to place in search of food and shelter.

Flint - A very hard type of stone that can be shaped into blades, knives and spears for hunting and can produce a spark when struck by another stone.

Knapping - A process of shaping stone by chipping pieces off the edges.

Microlith - Small, sharp stones used as arrow and spear heads.

Settlement - A place where people establish a community.

Smelting - A process to separate metal from rocks by heating and melting the metal.

Tribe - A group of families or communities that share a common culture and language usually with one leader.

Roundhouse - A circular house with a conical thatched roof built from the Bronze Age to Iron Age.

Wattle & Daub - The building material of a house made from sticks (wattle) and clay, straw or manure (daub).

Hillfort - A fort built on a hill with outer walls or ditches for defensive purposes.