

# THE STONE AGE TO THE IRON AGE

## Skara Brae

Is an archaeological site found on the Orkney Islands in Scotland. It is a stone age village that has been well preserved. Skara Brae is an archaeological site in Orkney that shows the remains of a Neolithic village. It was probably inhabited between 3200 BC and 2200 BC. There are eight houses that are linked together by a series of low passageways. The houses are made of stone and each one is just one single room with furniture such as beds and dressers.

## The Stone Age

The Stone Age is the name given to the earliest period of human culture - from the dawn of civilisation 2.5 million years ago, to around 5000 years ago, when humans began utilising metal to make tools and objects. The Paleolithic era lasted for such a long time that it accounts for 99% of all human history!



## The Bronze Age

The Bronze Age is the name given to the time period when bronze replaced stone as the preferred material for making tools and weapons. This, along with other developments, helped to influence big changes in the ways that people lived.

## The Iron Age

The Iron Age is the name given to the time period in which iron became the preferred choice of metal for making tools. It followed the Bronze Age, which had followed the Stone Age.

## Theories of Stone Henge

### A Burial Site

It is possible that the large entrance and the avenue from the river were built for the purpose of funeral processions. People could have transported the dead along the river, and then carried them up to the Stonehenge monument in a procession. The site was big enough for hundreds of people to gather for funerals or burial ceremonies.

### A Concert Venue

Experts in acoustics (the science of how sound works) have noticed that the stones are perfectly positioned for people standing inside them to hear musical rhythms clearly and also work as percussion instruments. There is plenty of space for dancing.

### A Healing Place

Some of the skeletons discovered at the site have shown signs that the people were suffering from very serious illnesses or injuries before they died and that they may have travelled a long way especially to come to Stonehenge.

### An Ancient Calendar

At the time, people did not have their own calendars and there was no standard way to keep track of the date. The way in which the stone circle is designed lines up exactly with the sunrise at the summer and winter solstice and gave people a way of tracking the seasons.

## Vocabulary

Prehistoric Before written records	Skara Brae	BC - Before Christ
Palaeolithic Around 3,000,000 BC	Stone Henge	AD - Anno Domini
Mesolithic - around 10,000 BC	Artefacts	BCE - Before the Common Era
Neolithic Around 4,500 BC - 2,4000 BC	Hunter Gatherer	CE - Common Era
Asset & Threat	Hillforts	Druids

