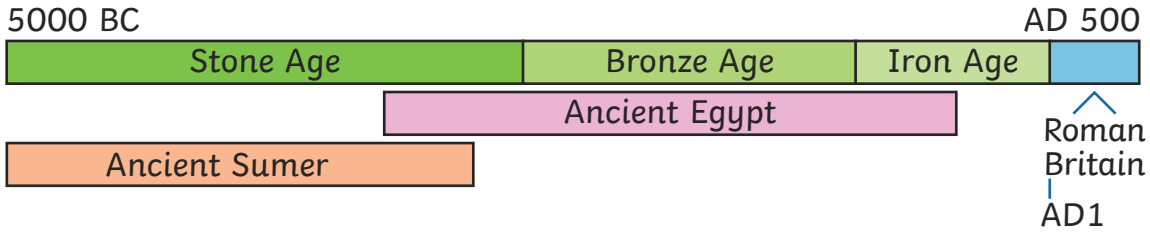
Key Vocabulary

ancient astronomy	The study of the things outside of Earth's atmosphere from the very distant past.
bone marrow	A substance high in fat and nutrients found inside bones.
earthwork	A large bank or mound that has been made by moving soil.
flint	A very hard stone that can produce a spark when struck by another stone.
hunter-gatherer	Someone who hunts animals and gathers wild food to eat.
prehistoric	Before written records began.

Timeline



When Was the Stone Age?

The Stone Age (a period of time when humans used stone to make tools) covers a huge period of time - over 3 million years.

It can be broken down into 3 smaller time periods:

Palaeolithic - around 3,000,000 BC. Early humans used simple stone tools with sharp edges.

Mesolithic - around 10,000 BC. Humans were hunter-gatherers and constantly on the move in order to stay safe and warm.

Neolithic - around 4500-2400 BC. Farming developed and villages were built.

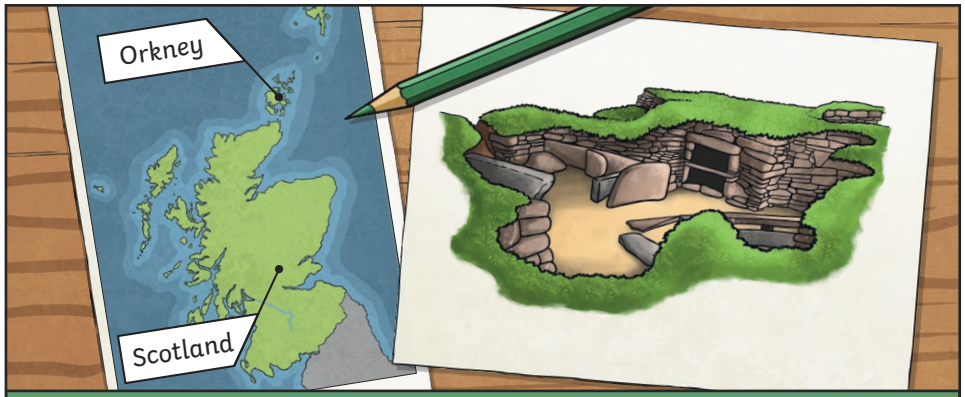
What Did the Stone Age People Have to Do?

- hunt and gather food
- find water and shelter
- skin animals and make clothes
- collect firewood for making fires to cook on and keep warm
- make tools and weapons



There is evidence that the Stone Age people were skilled at fishing and crafts. We also know that they developed farms to live off and that they took part in religious rituals.





Skara Brae

In 1850, a Stone Age village thought to have been built around 3000 BC was discovered on Orkney, off the North coast of Scotland.

It provided evidence that the Stone Age people were beginning to settle down, making homes and farming rather than constantly moving around.

The remains of eight circular houses were discovered. These houses contained a fire pit in the middle, beds built into the walls and a set of stone shelves called a dresser. The roofs were possibly made from a timber or whalebone frame covered in seaweed, animal skin or grass.

It is believed that the original village was added to later with larger houses being more rectangular.

Carved patterns can be found on the walls of one of the buildings.

Hunter-Gatherers

Weapons such as stone axes, spears, bows and arrows were all used to hunt for food.

Horse, deer, hares, seabirds, fish were all eaten. Every part of the animal was used including **bone marrow** and the skin for clothing.

Seeds, berries, nuts, eggs and insects were also gathered.

Stonehenge

A very famous, **prehistoric** monument in Wiltshire, England. Building started around 5000 years ago.

It it thought to have been used for **ancient astronomy**, religious ceremonies or places of healing.

Some of the stones were brought from Preseli Hills in South Wales - 240 miles away!

Sarsen Stones were vertical stones with a horizontal stone laying across the top making 'doorways'.

Originally, this monument was just an **earthwork** and up to 150 people were buried there. Huge stones were then added in different stages. What we see today are enormous stones placed in a circular and horseshoe pattern.

