

Imagine living in a land where there are no towns, no shops, no T.V. or phones, not even any wheels, schools or pencils. Welcome to the Stone Age.

The Stone Age in Britain is divided into three eras:

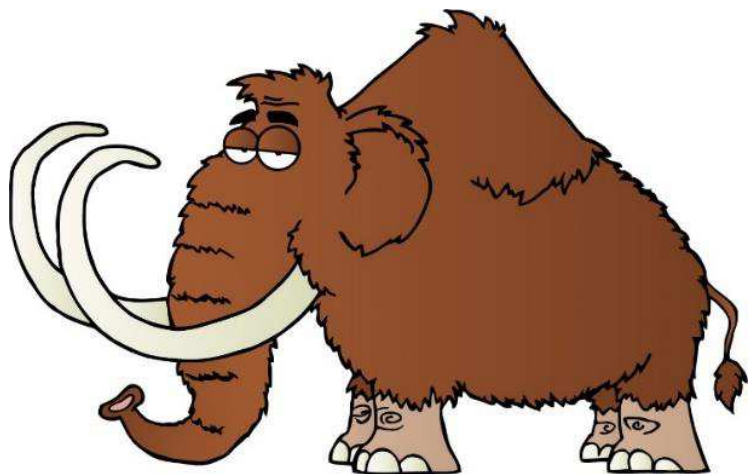
Palaeolithic era	Mesolithic era	Neolithic era
about 800 000 years ago, lasting for about 790 000 years	about 12 000 years ago, lasting for about 6000 years	about 6000 years ago, lasting for about 1700 years

Palaeolithic is Greek for 'The Old Stone Age'. During the Palaeolithic era Britain was joined to mainland Europe by a wide land bridge called Doggerland. This meant that at that time you could walk from Britain across to the rest of Europe.

The earliest humans to live in Britain were hunter-gatherers. They were called this because they hunted and gathered food to eat. They ate things such as wild horses, red deer, hares, mammoths, rhinos and hyenas. The skins from the animals were used to make clothes. Their tools were very basic and were made from stone and wood. Leaf-shaped points have been found dating back to this time which were probably used as arrowheads.

It is believed that the early humans chose to live in northern and western England and the uplands in Wales. They probably followed migrating herds of reindeer from north-east France and Belgium into Britain via Doggerland.

The Palaeolithic people had much more leisure time than we have and some of them were quite artistic. Pieces of engraved bone have been found from this time, along with cave art at Creswell Crags on the Derbyshire / Nottinghamshire border and in the Mendip Caves in Somerset.





Questions:

1. Approximately how long ago did the Stone Age start in Britain?

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2. How long did the Palaeolithic era last in Britain?

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3. What does Palaeolithic mean?

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4. What was Doggerland?

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5. Which humans were the first to live in Britain?

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6. Name three animals that the early Britains ate:

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7. What did they make their clothes from?

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8. What do you think they used arrow heads for?

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9. How is it thought that the early humans found their way into Britain?

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10. What type of Palaeolithic artwork has been found at Creswell Crags on the Derbyshire / Nottinghamshire border and in the Mendip Caves in Somerset?

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