

Stone Age to Iron Age

from the

Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology,
Cambridge

Palaeolithic (or Old Stone Age)



Ice age with snow and tundra

Hunters hunt mammoth and reindeer

**People make large hand axes from flint and stone
and spears from wood**

They live in groups in portable shelters or caves

Mesolithic (or Middle Stone Age)

Weather gets milder and woodland appears

Hunter-gatherers hunt deer and wild pigs, catch fish and gather nuts and berries

People make smaller portable flint axes and flint microliths as well as wooden spears and fishing hooks

They live in portable shelters



Neolithic (or New Stone Age)

People clear woodland to plant crops and graze cattle, sheep and goats

They stay in one place longer, build bigger houses and bury their dead in chambered tombs

Some build large monuments like Stonehenge

People make pottery for the first time

Flint and stone axes are often polished smooth. Some become symbols of status and power



Bronze Age

Farming continues



People use copper and bronze for the first time. Flint and stone is still used for arrowheads and small tools

A new type of pottery called the Beaker appears

The dead are buried in round barrows

Powerful groups emerge and the use of bronze weapons increases



Iron Age

Farming continues on a much bigger scale

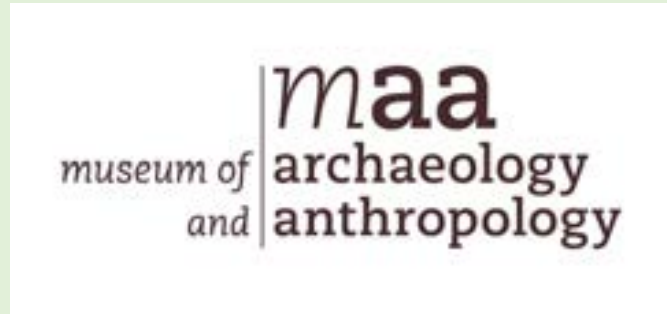
Iron Age people begin trading with the Romans

People live in bigger groups called tribes; some live in large protected hillforts

The dead are buried in graves

Iron is used for the first time and craftspeople make beautiful jewellery





Picture credits

Ice age fauna of northern Spain – Mauricio Anton

Hunter gatherer's camp at Irish National Heritage Park – David Hawgood

Reconstruction of a Neolithic house - Karen Nichols, Wessex Archaeology

Stonehenge – Gareth Wiscombe / Wikipedia.org

Iron Age settlement- <https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/our-work/kingsmead-quarry-orton>