

Project glossary

AD

The time after Christ was born. It stands for *anno Domini*, which is Latin for 'in the year of our Lord'.

.....

archaeologist

Someone who studies artefacts from the past.

.....

ard

An iron-tipped plough used in the Iron Age.

.....

artefact

A human-made object that is of historical interest.

.....

BC

Stands for 'before Christ' and is used after a date to show the number of years before Christ's birth.

.....

BCE

Stands for 'before common era' and is sometimes used instead of BC.

.....

Briton

A Celt who lived in southern Britain before the Roman invasion.

.....

bronze

A metal alloy made by mixing copper and tin.

.....

Bronze Age

The time when tools and weapons were made from the metal bronze. In Britain, it lasted from c2500 BC until c800 BC.

.....

CE

Stands for 'common era' and is sometimes used instead of AD.



Celt

One of a group of people who travelled from Europe and brought their ironworking skills to Britain.

century

A period of 100 years.

circa

Abbreviated to 'c' and used before a date to show that the date is approximate.

copper

A malleable, reddish-gold metal found in the ground.

druid

A priest of the Celtic religion in the Iron Age.

earthwork

A raised area of earth used for defence.

era

A period of history that begins with a significant event.

flint

A shiny, grey or black stone.

hammerstone

A large rock used in the Palaeolithic period as a hammer to create other tools.

hand axe

A Palaeolithic tool consisting of a stone sharpened at both ends.

henge

An earthwork made up of a flat, circular area of land surrounded by a ditch and a bank.

hillfort

A settlement built on a hill that is protected by ditches and fences.



Homo erectus

An early species of human. The name means 'upright man'.

.....

Homo heidelbergensis

An early species of human.

.....

Homo neanderthalensis (Neanderthal)

An early species of human.

.....

Homo sapiens

The only species of human left on Earth today. The name means 'wise man'.

.....

hunter-gatherer

A person who lives by hunting animals and collecting plants to eat.

.....

invention

A new creation that has never been made before.

.....

iron

A strong, hard, silvery-grey metal found in rocks as iron ore.

.....

Iron Age

The time when tools and weapons were made from the metal iron. In Britain, it lasted from c800 BC until AD 43.

.....

long barrow

A Stone Age earthwork containing burial chambers.

.....

loom

A tool used to weave yarn into cloth.

.....

megalith

A large stone, sometimes part of a circle, in the Stone Age.

.....

Mesolithic

The middle period of the Stone Age from c10,000 BC until c4000 BC.



metalworker

A person who makes objects out of metal.

.....

microlith

A small piece of sharp flint often used as a spear point or arrowhead.

.....

migration

The movement of people or animals from one place to another.

.....

millennium

A period of 1000 years.

.....

Neolithic

The latest period of the Stone Age from c4000 BC until c2500 BC.

.....

nomad

A person who lives by travelling from one place to another rather than staying in the same place.

.....

ore

A rock from which metal can be obtained.

.....

Palaeolithic

The earliest period of the Stone Age from c750,000 BC until c10,000 BC.

.....

plough

A farming tool with blades that digs the soil for seeds to be planted.

.....

prehistoric

Relates to any object, animal, person or place that existed before written records began.

.....

primary source

Evidence that was around at the time, such as jewellery and tools.

.....

quern

A stone used to grind grain to make flour.



radiocarbon dating

A scientific method used to find the age of an object.

.....

roundhouse

A circular building with a thatched roof and walls made from wattle and daub.

.....

secondary source

Evidence that tells us about the past but is not from the past, such as textbooks and television programmes.

.....

settlement

A place where people live.

.....

sickle

A tool with a semi-circular blade and short handle used for cutting grass and crops.

.....

standing stone

A square or rectangular stone found standing on its edge, often as part of a stone circle.

.....

Stone Age

The time when tools were made of stone. In Britain, it lasted from c750,000 BC until c2500 BC.

.....

stone circle

A circular arrangement of standing stones.

.....

tin

A silver-coloured metal that can be mixed with copper to make bronze.

.....

tranchet adze

A Mesolithic tool made of a stone with a sharp cutting edge thought to have been mounted in a wooden handle.

.....

wattle and daub

A mixture of sticks and mud used in Bronze Age Britain to make walls for roundhouses.

