

Year 3/4 The Rolling Stone Age



Historians and archaeologists disagree about when exactly the Stone Age started and ended, but an estimated date according to evidence is around 8-10,000 BC until 4000BC. This is a time where there are no written records. Archaeologists can only study what is buried beneath the surface of the land or cave paintings. Stone age remains have included fish and bird bones, spears, paddles, dice, pottery, jewellery and farming tools – agriculture began in the Neolithic period. The Stone Age is brought to life for our children through a trip to Butser Ancient Farms, as well as virtual online visit to Lascaux, Skara Brae and Stone Henge. We study different types of rocks sedimentary, igneous, metamorphic and compare them to man-made concrete and bricks. Our creative writing is inspired by “Stone Age Boy”.

<https://www.lascaux-dordogne.com/en/lascaux-cave>



Amazing Facts:

- The Stone Age lasted a very long time. It began about 2.7 million years ago when the first humans started to make tools out of stone.
- The first people came to Britain in around 900,000 BC and marked the start of Palaeolithic Britain.



Stone Henge

When was the Stone Age?

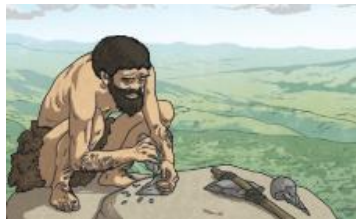
The Stone Age (a period of time when humans used stone to make tools) covers a huge period of time – over 3 million years.

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 4,500-2,400 BC. Farming developed and villages were built.



Rocks and Soils

A rock is a solid material made up of minerals forming part of the surface of the Earth. Rocks are exposed on the surface at cliffs, hills and mountains but are also under the surface.



Some rocks are made of grains squashed together and can contain the remains of long-dead organisms, called fossils. This type of rock is called **sedimentary** rock, an example would be limestone, sandstone or mudstone.

Some rocks are made of crystals that are locked tightly together. These are called **igneous** and **metamorphic** rocks; an example of igneous rock is granite, and an example of metamorphic rock is slate.

These three types of rocks all have different properties to each other, including porosity, hardness, reaction to chemicals.

Soil:

- Is made up of small broken-down pieces of rock.
- Contains a range of different size rock pieces, e.g., sand grains or stones.
- Also contains humus (rotted plant material).
- Is made of very fine rock is called silt or clay.

Glossary

Agriculture – another word for farming.

Crystals – can be naturally occurring precious gems or they can be everyday substances like sugar and salt.

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.

Minerals – a solid, naturally occurring inorganic substance.

Porosity – having spaces or hold though which liquid or air may pass.

Prehistoric - Before written records began.

Butser farm:

