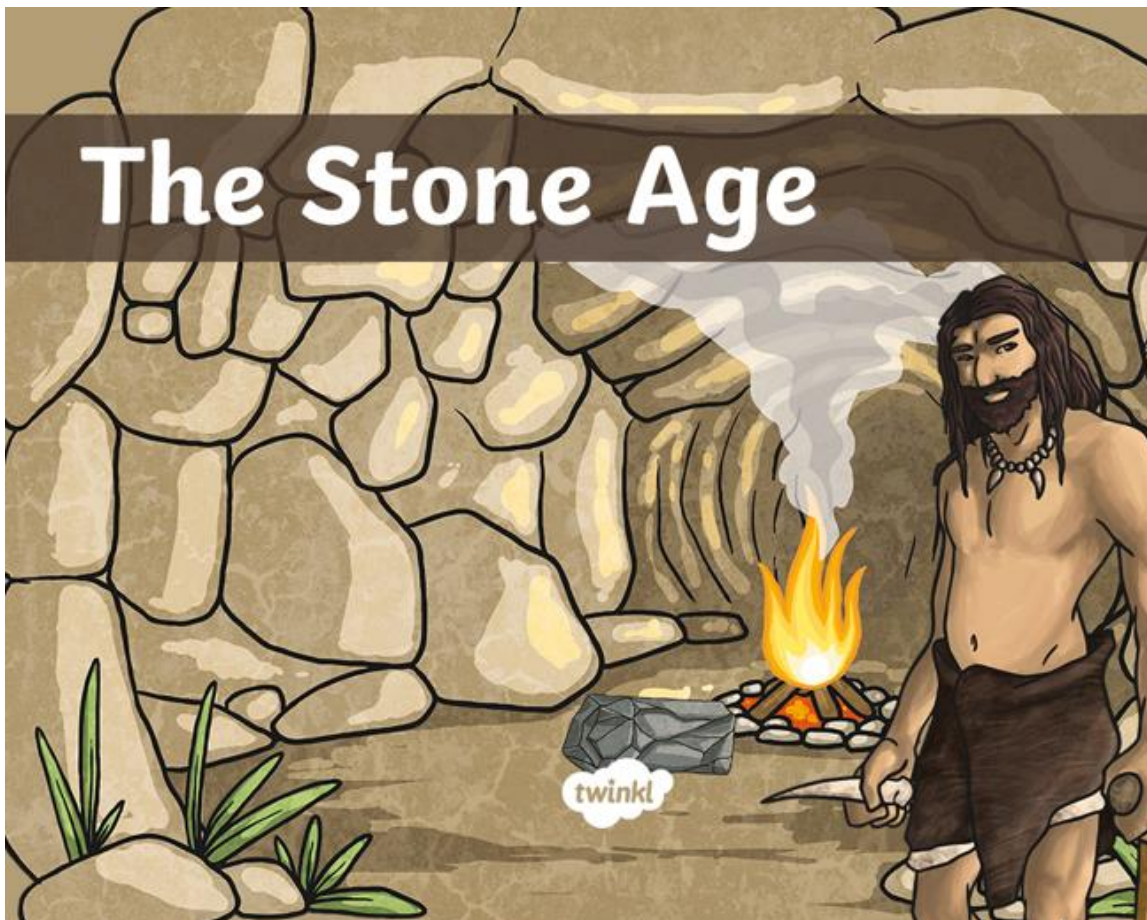


# The Stone Age



## What does prehistoric mean?

Prehistoric comes from 'pre-history'.

It means a time before written records existed.

There is no recorded history of this time that we can read, just clues left behind that archaeologists have to interpret.



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## When was the Stone Age?

The Stone Age covers a huge period of time, over 3 million years!

The Stone Age starts from when the first human like animals came into existence. The earliest evidence has been found in Africa.

Early humans arrived in Britain more than 800,000 years ago but Britain has not been constantly lived in since that time due to climate changes.

The ice and the cold temperatures during the last period of time known as the Ice Age meant that early humans left Britain in search of warmer climates.

At this time Britain was not an island so they could walk across the land into Europe and Africa.

## The Stone Age is broken down into smaller time periods

### **Palaeolithic - around 3,000,000 BC**

During this long period of time, the earliest hominids (humans or close relatives of humans), *Homo habilis*, who used simple stone tools, slowly developed into the modern humans we call *Homo sapiens*. Britain was still connected by land to France and Denmark.

### **Mesolithic - around 10,000BC**

People led largely nomadic lives as hunter-gatherers, constantly on the move in order to survive. It was during this time that Britain became an island.

### **Neolithic - around 4,500 BC - 2,400BC**

This is the time that farming began, pottery was developed and villages were built.



## Why is it called the Stone Age?

The Stone Age is so called because the earliest humans used stone to make tools with a sharp edge or point.

Stone was the material predominantly used for tools throughout the Stone Age.



## Which countries were populated?

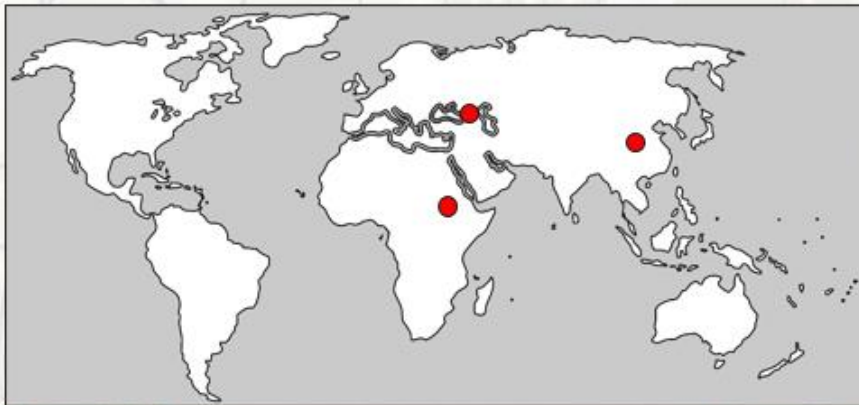
Today there are over seven billion people in the world (7,000,000,000). Even at the peak of the stone age it was likely that there were less than five million (5,000,000).

About 2 million years ago Homo habilis appeared in eastern Africa.



## Which countries were populated?

About 1.5 million years ago Homo erectus were living in the Southern Caucasus and Northern China.



## Which countries were populated?

By 400,000 years ago the early human population had spread to Indonesia and Europe.





## Which countries were populated?

By 27,000 years ago they had set foot in Australia, Poland, Japan and Siberia.



## Which countries were populated?

It wasn't until around 10,000 BC that early humans reached North and South America via the Bering land bridge that at that time connected Siberia and North America.

