



Timeline of Key Events

- 800,000 BC: Earliest footprints in Britain
- 450,000 BC: Old Stone Age (Palaeolithic)
- 25,000 BC: Ice Age in N Europe and Britain
- 8,000 BC: Middle Stone Age (Mesolithic)
- 6,000 BC: Britain became an island
- 4,000 BC: New Stone Age (Neolithic)
- 4,000 BC: Agriculture began in Britain
- 3,000 BC to 800 BC: Bronze Age
- 1,200 BC: First hillforts built
- 800BC to AD43: Iron Age

Key Knowledge

In the **Stone Age**, people made simple tools, were mostly hunter-gatherers and began to farm and build settlements. The stone age can be broken up into three sections: early stone age (Paleolithic), middle stone age (Mesolithic) and late stone age (Neolithic).

In the **Bronze Age**, metal work was introduced using a special process called **smelting**. Humans began to farm land and began building better farming equipment. People were buried with their most important possessions. The beaker people started arriving from Europe.

In the **Iron Age**, iron replaced bronze as the main material for making tools and weapons. Because of all the wars, Iron Age people began to protect themselves by settling in hillforts. They lived in communities.



Stonehenge (Wiltshire, England)



Cave painting



Iron Age Hillfort (Oswestry, Shropshire)



Neolithic flint arrowheads

Key Vocabulary

Agriculture: The process of land being used to grow crops and to rear animals for food.

Archaeology: The study of buildings, graves, tools and objects that belonged to people who lived in the past.

Artefact: An object made by a human.

AD: Used to show dates after the birth of Jesus. (*Anno Domini* Latin for "In the year of our Lord")

BC: Used to show dates before the birth of Jesus. The bigger the number, the longer ago. ("Before Christ")

Flint: A stone that can be shaped into blades, knives and spears for used for hunting animals.

Hillfort: Buildings on top of hills used as settlements and defensive spaces, built with outer walls or ditches.

Homo Sapiens: The type of human species today.

Hunter Gatherer: People who lived by hunting, fishing and collection wild fruits and nuts. They moved wherever they needed to get food from.

Prehistory: a time before written records began, from when hunter-gatherers first came to Britain from Europe and before Romans invaded Britain.

Roundhouse: A circular house with a thatched conical roof built from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age.

Stonehenge: A famous monument built in the Stone Age, made from huge stones arranged in a circle.



Timeline of Key Events

Ancient Sumer/Mesopotamia

3500BC- growth of cities
1792BC- Sumerian cities become part of the Babylonian Empire

Indus Valley

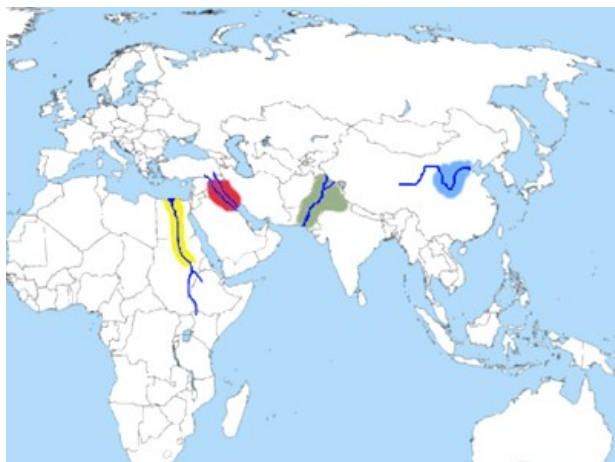
3200BC - first signs of settlement
1800BC - Indus Valley in decline

Shang Dynasty

1766BC - first Shang ruler comes to power
1046BC - end of Shang Dynasty

Ancient Egypt

3150BC - Ancient Egypt civilisation begins
30BC - Cleopatra dies. Egypt becomes a Roman Province



Key Knowledge

All of these early civilisations settled on the banks of a river (Tigris and Euphrates, Indus, Yellow and Yangtze and the Nile).

The river was used for water for food, farming, fishing, trade, keeping clean, waste disposal and ceremonies.

Ancient Sumer was located in Iraq/Iran. Indus Valley was located in North East Pakistan. Shang Dynasty was located in China. Ancient Egypt was located in Egypt.

They all developed early forms of writing and a number system.

Ancient Sumer invented the wheel. Indus Valley developed weights and measures, waste disposal within a city, water supply and planned out a city.

Shang Dynasty invented paper, made silk and created lots of things such as pottery out of Jade.

Ancient Egypt built the pyramids and developed irrigation.



Key Vocabulary

Civilisation - An organised society with its own culture and way of life, existing in a particular area over a particular period of time.

BC - Used to show that a date is before the year 0.

AD - Used to show that a date is after the year 0.

Irrigation - A system of canals or channels dug to supply water to grow crops.

Hieroglyphics - A system of writing that used pictures and symbols (hieroglyphs) instead of letters.

Cartouche - An oval shape in which the names of kings and queen were written in hieroglyphics to show they were special.

Pharaoh - A ruler of Ancient Egypt.

Ziggurat - Each city in Ancient Sumer worshipped its own main god in a ziggurat, which had three platforms, steep steps up the front and a temple at the top.

Seal - A small stamp with an individual design, used from pressing into a soft material like clay to show who made or sent an item.

Dynasty - A family that rule a country or state for many generations.

Emperor - A king or ruler of an empire of country

Jade - A mineral (rock) that is green in colour