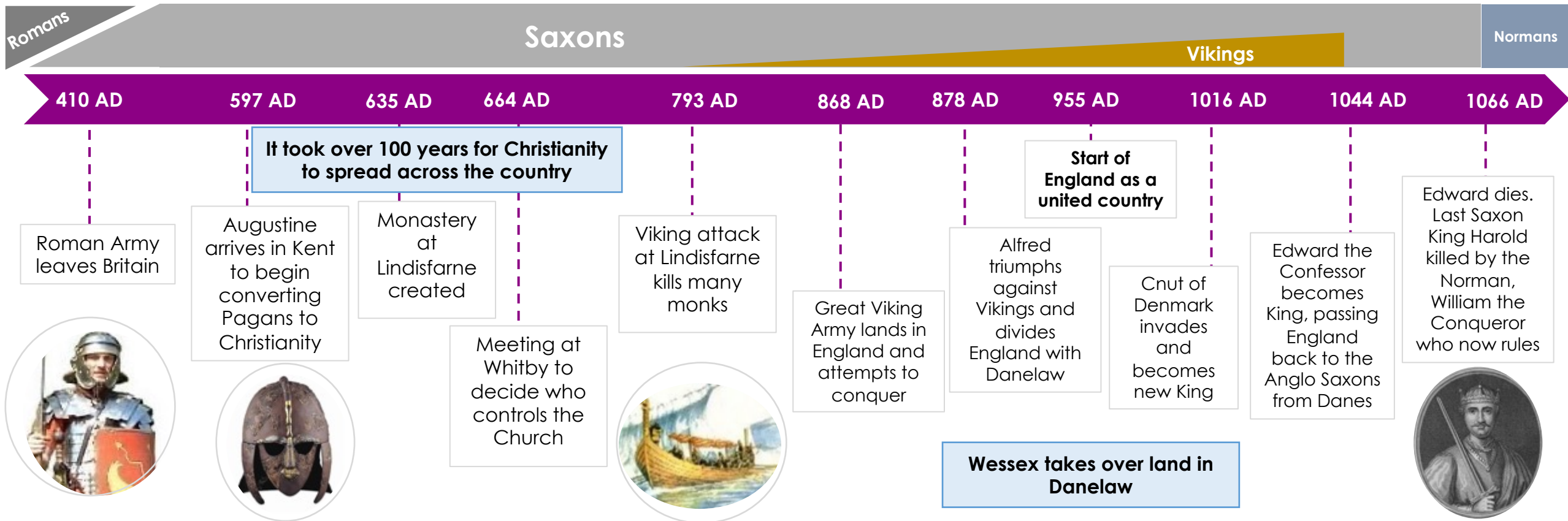
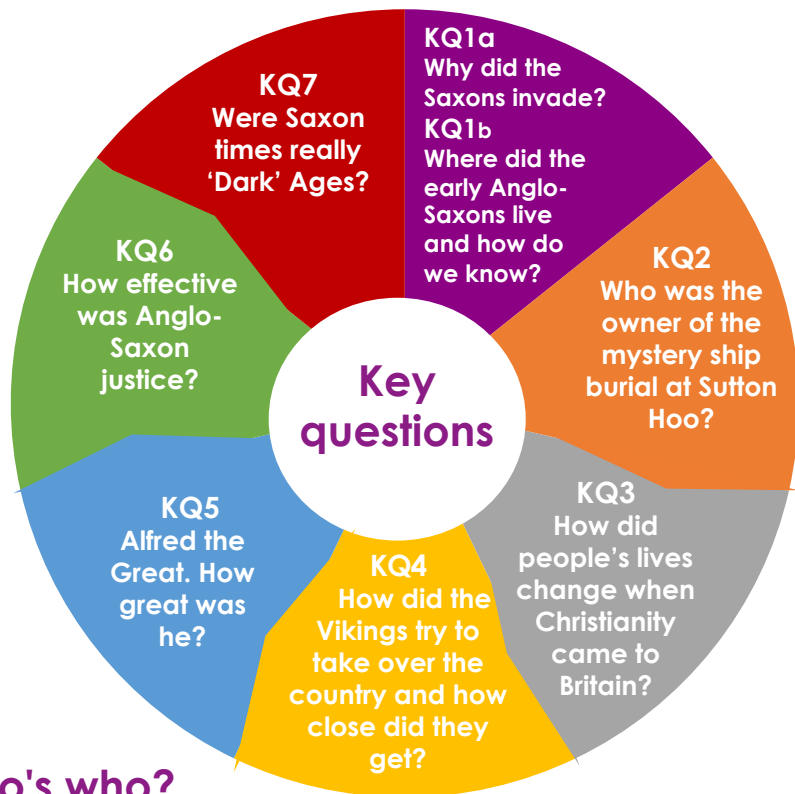


Anglo-Saxons

Why this period is important

During this period England emerged as a recognisable nation and Christianity became established. The recent coronation of Charles III is the latest for a king of England : over a thousand years ago, that of the Saxon King Edgar was the first. King Alfred was the central Saxon figure, the only king to be called 'Great'. He was responsible for defeating the Vikings who threatened to control the country for many years through raids and then attempts to conquer. The Saxon period is often called the Dark Ages but many think this is unfair as the Saxons were skilled craftsmen who introduced new long-lasting systems of keeping law and order as well as memorable literature.





Who's who?

Alfred	King of Wessex, known as the Great, ruled 871-899
Asser	Man who wrote flattering life history of Alfred
Augustine	In the late 6th century, he was sent from Rome to England to bring Christianity to the Anglo-Saxons.
Bede	He wrote a very important book on the early history of Britain,
Burhs	Forts built in 9th century to defend against Viking raids
Gildas	6th century monk who wrote a history of Britain before and during Saxon period
Guthrum	Danish leader and King of East Anglia who fought against Alfred, later christened Athelstan
Hengist and Horsa	Leaders who some people think arrived to take over Britain in AD449.
Raedwald	King of East Anglia died about 625AD
Vortigern	King of the Britons at the time of the arrival of the Saxons under Hengist and Horsa in the 5th century

Key vocabulary

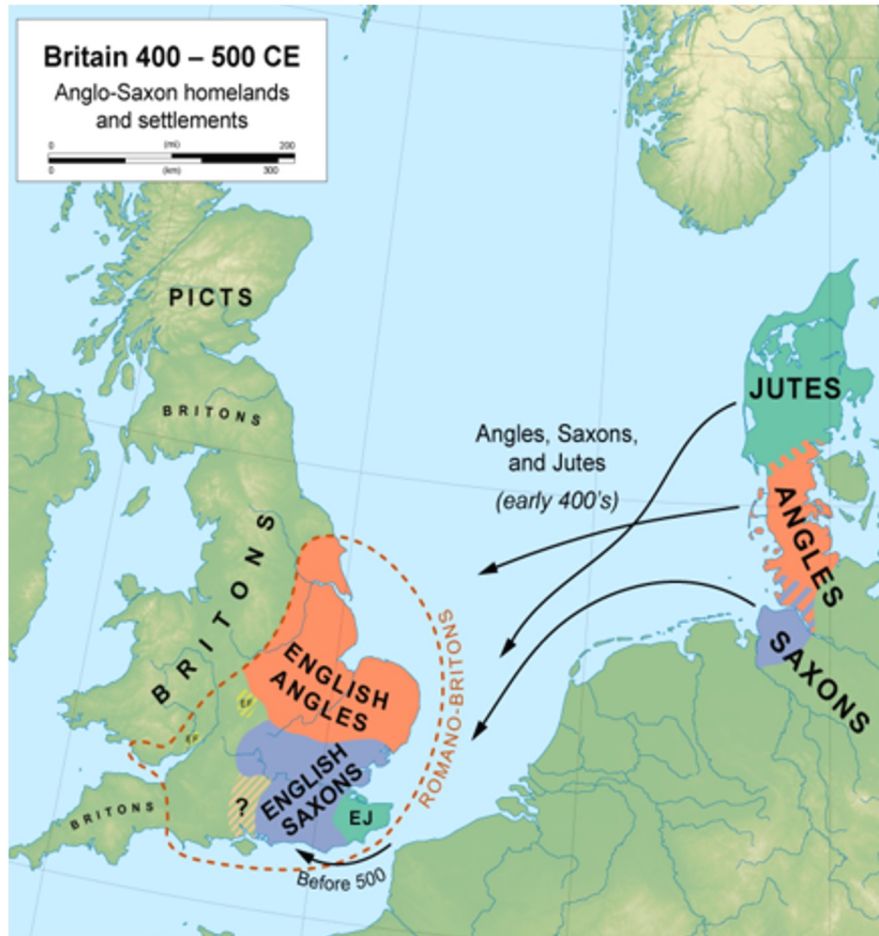
Cemetery	Burial place
Cenotaph	Empty grave to remember someone important buried elsewhere
Christianity	Religion based on life and teachings of Jesus Christ which came to Britain in Saxon times
Danelaw	Name given to northern and eastern part of Britain under Danish control from 9th to 11th century
Hoard	Store of money often hidden away to come back to later
Hypothesis	Theory that has to be tested
Monastery	Large religious building where monks lived and prayed
Pagan	Word used to describe people who didn't follow one of the main religions
Picts	Group of people who lived in part of Britain what we think of as Scotland
Sceptre	Looks like a stick richly decorated, carried by kings only
Settlement	Place people moved to live in
Sutton Hoo	Site of very important archaeological excavation in 1939.
Treaty	A formal, legally binding written agreement
Turning point	Time when things changed suddenly
Urn	Container for ashes
Viking	Name given to people from Scandinavia who raided traded and settled in Britain between the 9th and 11th centuries
Wergild	Fine to be paid to someone's family if a member was killed or injured

Top takeaways

Having studied this topic you should be able to understand:

1. the reasons why the Anglo-Saxons invaded
2. that it was during this time that England became united, with Wessex as the leading kingdom.
3. that it was at this time that England became a Christian country.
4. that King Alfred was the only English king to be given the name 'Great' and know why not everybody agrees that he deserves it
5. that the Saxons were frequently under attack from the Vikings until Alfred defeated them and they settled in the Danelaw area to the north and east
6. It was during this period that there were better laws and a flowering of literature.

Britain 400-500



7 kingdoms before 878



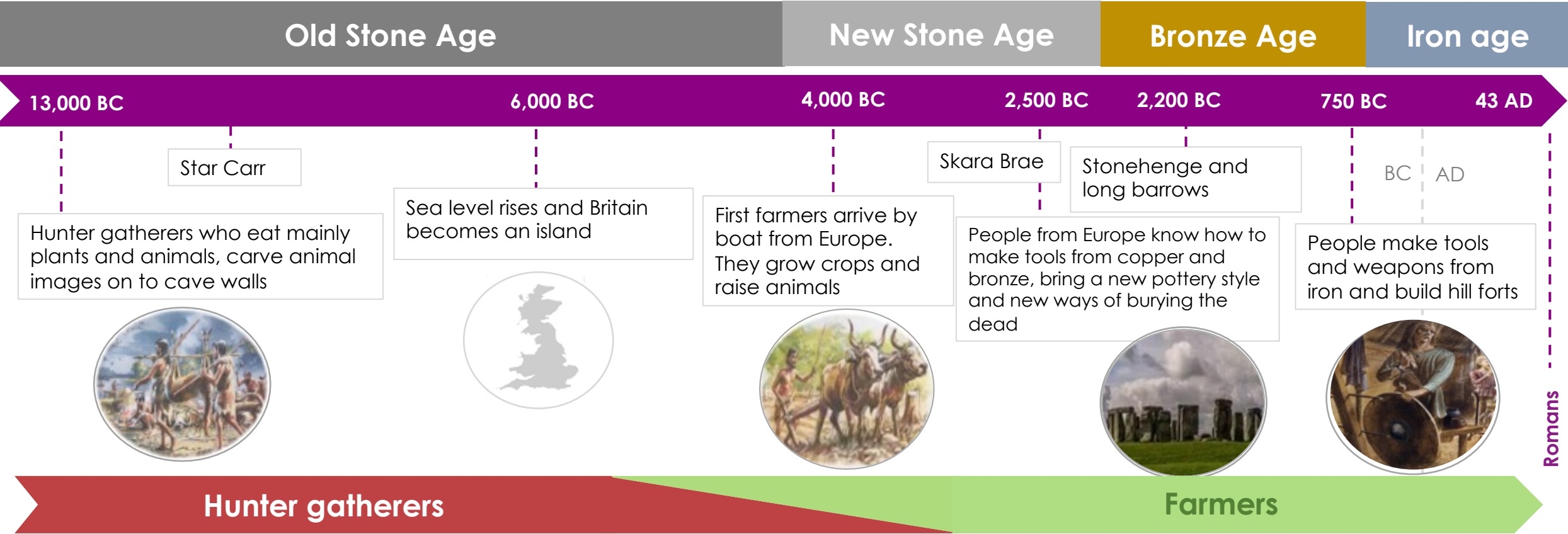
After 878



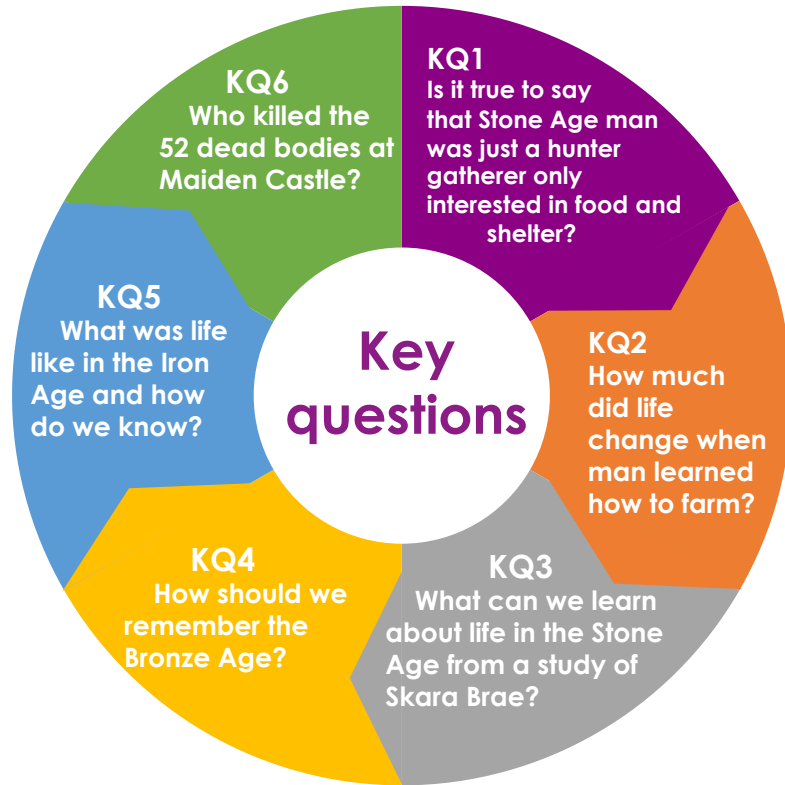
From Stone Age to Iron Age

Why this period is important

The earliest known humans arrived in these lands around 900,000 years ago. During this time there were huge changes: the ice covering Britain melted; instead of hunting all the time, people learned to farm and make metal tools; they found time to worship. There is still evidence we can see around us today, such as Stonehenge, long burial mounds and hill forts which are thousands of years old. This, before the Romans invaded is often called prehistoric.



From Stone Age to Iron Age



Books to read

- Stone Age Boy by [Satoshi Kitamura](#)
- The Boy with the Bronze Axe by Kathleen Fiddler
- The First Drawing by Mordicai Gerstein
- Stig of the Dump by Clive King
- The Stone Age: Hunters, Gatherers and Woolly Mammoths by Marcia Williams

Key vocabulary

- **Archaeologists** - People who work out our history by looking at artefacts that have been found.
- **Artefact** - An object made by human beings, Neolithic - Is the later part of the stone-age and follows the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic age.
- **Barrow**- long mound where bodies were buried
- **B.C.** - Before Christ. A date like 250BC means 250 years before Christ was born.
- **Forge**- where heating melts and allows metal to be made
- **Henge**- upright stones ditches and mounds
- **Hunter-gatherers** - People who mainly live by hunting, fishing and gathering wild fruit.
- **Mesolithic**. Middle Stone Age
- **Neolithic** New Stone Age
- **Paleolithic** Earliest period of the Stone Age when chipped stone tools were used
- **Prehistoric**- before the Romans and written records
- **Prey** - An animal that is hunted for its food.
- **Ritual** A ceremony , often religious
- **Tribe/Tribal** group of people, often of related families, who live in the same area and share the same language, culture, and history

NB *Lithic* at end of word means stone

Websites

- [English Heritage](#)
- [British museum](#)



Top takeaways

Having studied this topic you should be able to:

1. Sequence in the correct order the names used by historians to describe different periods during this time
2. Say what was distinctive about 3 different periods from this time e.g. Bronze Age
3. Explain what the two biggest changes that developed in Britain during the New Stone Age were and describe the impact on daily life
4. Explain the different theories as to why Stonehenge was built
5. Describe the ways in which life changed during the Iron Age
6. Explain how we can know so much about a time that happened thousands of year ago.