

Prehistoric Planet



Recommended year group: **3**

Theme focus: **History**

Suggested term: **Autumn**

Theme introduction

Prehistoric Planet is a theme that is focussed on learning about the prehistoric era of the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. Learning in this theme is focussed on history but also includes art, DT and science. In Prehistoric Planet, we look at the key facts about why each of the different prehistoric periods existed. Pupils will learn the importance of cave murals and paintings and how tribes moved from being hunter–gatherers to farmers. They will also learn about the tools that were created to help survive and make their own models of them. The theme will finish with pupils creating an interactive timeline of the prehistoric period.

Driving Question

How did life change during the prehistoric ages?

Switch on Science Unit

Year 3: Rocks, Soils and Fossils

Switch on Computing Unit

Year 3: We are programmers

Linked reading texts

How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth by Michelle Robinson

Stig of the Dump by Clive King

Stone Age Boy by Satoshi Kitamura

Writing Outcomes

Instructions: Instructions on how to care for a pre-historic animal based on *How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth* by Michelle Robinson.

Diary Entry: Diary of a stone-age child.

Stories with historical settings: A time-travel story based on *Stone Age Boy* by Satoshi Kitamura

Curriculum Coverage

History: chronology, historical enquiry and sources, cause and consequence, significant individuals, events and achievements, historical vocabulary, Similarities, differences and connections

Science: animals including humans

Design Technology: design; representing design ideas, make: tools

Geography: environment, physical geography

Art: drawing, painting, evaluating and appreciating, developing ideas, 3D sculpture

Excite

Pupils to discover a series of artefacts from the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. This Excite requires teachers to source replica items and fossils for pupils to 'find' and discuss. Pupils to investigate their findings and discuss the following:

- What do they think they have found?
- Where do they think it has come from?
- When is it from? How long ago?
- What do they think it would have been used for?

A good way to set this up is to bury objects in sand boxes and give pupils tools, such as brushes and trowels to 'dig' for them.

A mixture of objects and images could be discovered.

Explore

There are thirteen explore sessions.

Explore 1: The Three-Age System

Explore 2: The Stone Age

Explore 3: When did art start?

Explore 4: Stone Age survival

Explore 5: Early tools

Explore 6: The Dawn of Farming

Explore 7: The Bronze Age

Explore 8: Bronze Age beakers

Explore 9: Changes in the Bronze Age

Explore 10: Iron Age civilisation

Explore 11: What makes a good fort?

Explore 12: Through the Ages

Explore 13: Interactive timelines

Theme essential vocabulary:

Bronze Age, civilisation, Iron Age, Mesolithic, Neolithic, nomadic, Palaeolithic, Prehistoric, Stone Age, settlement

Essential knowledge/concepts

1. There are three prehistoric ages: the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age.
2. The Stone Age has three periods: the Palaeolithic, the Mesolithic and the Neolithic.
3. The Neolithic period started in approximately 4000 BC.
4. The Palaeolithic period was pre-10,000 BC.
5. The Mesolithic period was between 10,000 BC to 4000 BC.
6. Cave murals were inspired by the things that the people had around them.
7. The Bronze Age lasted approximately 1700 years in Britain from 2500 BC to 800 BC.
8. The Beaker people entered Britain from central Europe and started the Bronze Age in Britain.
9. The Beaker people are named after the distinctive bell-shaped pottery that they used.
10. The Iron Age developed due to the increase in new iron-based technologies from 800 BC onwards.
11. A hillfort was built by Iron Age people and was used for gatherings of people and storing various items including grain.

Excel

The key assessment outcomes of this unit are:

- Explore 2 The Stone Age: Stone Age fact sheet
- Explore 7 The Bronze Age: Bronze Age infographic
- Explore 10 Iron Age civilisation: Newsround-style report
- Explore 12 Through the ages: comparison table

Exhibit

Through the Ages: an Interactive timeline exhibition.

Pupils to set up their interactive timeline exhibition in a corridor or school hall. Visitors to walk through interacting with the timeline (including key date, facts imagery and clips), speaking to pupils in roll as people from various ages and/or as tour guides whilst also interacting with pupil work from the theme including Stone Age cave art, Bronze Age beakers and Iron Age hillfort diagrams.

Possible wider experiences:

Visit places of prehistoric interest. For example:

- Skara Brae in the Orkney Islands
- Stonehenge
- Avebury Stone Circle
- Arthur's Stone
- Castlerigg Stone Circle in Cumbria
- Stanwich Iron Age Fortification

Flipped learning opportunities

Opportunities to investigate the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age at varying points through the theme including:

- What is the purpose of a timeline?
- How long ago was the Stone Age?
- Research the three periods of the Stone Age.
- Investigate what Bronze Age tribes traded and why.
- Why did the discovery of iron lead to more battles?

Family learning suggestion

What was it like to live in the Stone/Bronze/Iron Age?

Pupils to build a mini settlement from the Bronze-Age. A good point to set this homework will be following the Explores looking at either Stone/Bronze/Iron-Age life. Pupils should be directed to consider lifestyle, homes and food sources. They could present their model in a shoe box or similar.

Cultural awareness

Key pieces of music

'Sabre Dance' by Aram Khachaturian

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUQHGpxrz-8>

'Diamonds on the Soles of her Shoes' by Paul Simon

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-l_T3XvzPaM

Key piece of art

Lascaux Cave Paintings in Bordeaux, France

<https://archeologie.culture.fr/lascaux/en/visit-cave/salle-taureaux>

Key poems

Michael Rosen

Neolithic Age – 'The Folkton Drums'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kC7Inmm-IsM>

Bronze Age – 'The Knowes of Trotty'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GO8TWXo6Ko>

Iron Age – 'The Portesham Mirror'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVmCOSDrxJA>