

What should I already know?

- Eyewitness accounts and paintings are important historical sources (Samuel Pepys' diary and Mary Seacole's autobiography, paintings of the Great Fire and hospitals in the Crimean War)



Vocabulary

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| prehistory | the time before people started keeping written records |
| archaeologists | a person who studies human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and the analysis of artefacts and other physical remains |
| AD | Anno Domini – ‘in the year of the Lord’ – the years after Jesus’ birth |
| artefact | an object made by a human being, typically one of cultural or historical interest |
| Stone Age | a prehistoric period when weapons and tools were made of stone or of organic materials such as bone, wood, or horn |
| Palaeolithic | the early phase of the Stone Age, lasting about 2.5 million years, when primitive stone implements were used |
| Mesolithic | the middle part of the Stone Age, between the Palaeolithic and Neolithic |
| Neolithic | the later part of the Stone Age, when ground or polished stone weapons and implements were used |
| glacier | a slowly moving mass or river of ice formed by the accumulation and compaction of snow on mountains or near the poles |
| hunter-gatherer | a member of a nomadic people who live chiefly by hunting and fishing, and harvesting wild food |
| fossils | the remains or impression of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock and preserved in petrified (stony) form |
| settlement | a place, typically one which has previously been uninhabited, where people establish a community |
| tuberculosis | a lung disease that killed many people starting in the Neolithic Period |
| hearth | the floor of a fireplace |
| tribe | families or communities that lived together who shared similar beliefs |
| Bronze Age | a prehistoric period that followed the Stone Age and preceded the Iron Age, when weapons and tools were made of bronze rather than stone |
| Iron Age | a prehistoric period that followed the Bronze Age, when weapons and tools came to be made of iron |

What will I know by the end of this unit?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What periods were there in Prehistoric Britain? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prehistoric life in Britain is split into 3 main ages: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Stone Age – made up of the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods 2. The Bronze Age 3. The Iron Age |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the Palaeolithic Period like In Britain? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence from this period comes from remains found by archaeologists • Animals you would not find in Britain today roamed the land at this time such as lions! • Britain is mainly open grassland at this time and is not an island • Several ice ages during this period meant Britain was often covered in glaciers • The end of this period, around 11,500 years ago, came as a result of the end of the last ice age |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the Mesolithic Period like In Britain? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Britain becomes an island as sea levels rose • People lived in caves or small huts and moved around to find and gather different foods they were called hunter-gatherers The warmer climate and melting glaciers created lakes and forests started to grow • This resulted in more animals for the hunter-gatherers to hunt • Along with still using stone tools, people started to use animal bones to create tools • Fossils show that the people started to look more like us and that they lived in families and had spiritual beliefs |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the Neolithic Period like In Britain? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Began around 6500 years ago when polished stone tools were used and people started making pottery and woven materials • People stopped moving around and they started to form settlements and towns and they started to grow their own crops • People started to fight between themselves as communities wanted to live in the best locations for growing crops • Tuberculosis killed large numbers of people at this time |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the Bronze Age like In Britain? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Began in Britain around 4000 years ago when people started mixing copper and tin to make bronze – a stronger and harder metal for tools and weapons • The first time there are rich and poor people in Britain which resulted in the rich being able to trade for goods • As people became more mobile, trade across Europe brought new ways of working with metal from the continent • People started to live in tribes and build hill forts for safety. They grew crops inside their walls whilst living in huts made of wood and mud plaster |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the Iron Age like In Britain? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Began around 2700 years ago when tribes in Britain (often referred to a Celts) started making iron weapons and tools which were much stronger than bronze • People still lived in hillforts and travelled to trade whilst also fighting with other tribes over land |