



# Week 8 History

Comparison of British History (The Bronze Age) and China (The Shang Dynasty)



## SESSION 1

The last time that we did history, we looked at the Bronze Age, Stone Age and Iron Age. In class we created a timeline together. Have a look at this timeline on the next slide and see if you can think about any of the key events that we looked at together. Pull that information from the back of your mind and see what you can remember 😊

# BBC HANDS ON HISTORY THE ANCIENTS

## PREHISTORY TIMELINE

Follow the changes in ancient Britain between 12000BC and AD43. Before this point Britain was in the grip of the Ice Age at a time when woolly mammoths roamed across the open landscape and Britain was still joined to the Continent. At the height of the Ice Age, ice sheets covered most of Scotland, Wales and Northern England leaving Britain abandoned by people.

### 9000BC

There is evidence that hunter-gatherers lived in groups across Britain. For example, the lake-edge settlement at Star Carr in North Yorkshire dates from this time. Evidence found here includes houses, the oldest carpentry in Britain and signs of spiritual, shamanic rituals which involved wearing deer antlers.



### 6000BC

Sea levels continue to rise. Britain is finally separated from the Continental mainland and becomes an island.



### 4000BC

Domestic plants and animals are brought over from the Continent and early groups of farming people appear. At the same time technological advances emerge, such as handmade pottery. Flint mining also begins, notably at Cissbury in Sussex.

### 3500BC

New forms of ceremonial site are constructed. Many are long, rectangular enclosures known as 'cursus monuments'. Parts of the Stonehenge Greater Cursus (located next to the later Stonehenge stone circle) and the Dorset Cursus can still be seen. Elaborately decorated pottery is now being made.

### 2500BC

Large and more elaborate monuments are built at major ritual centres. These include the massive henge at Durrington Walls, the sarsen circle at Stonehenge and the Ring of Brodgar in Orkney. The earliest copper objects and Beaker pottery (distinctive bell-shaped pots) date from this time.

### 1500BC

Settled farming communities emerge. Ceremonial monuments are largely abandoned, with much of southern Britain covered by fields and roundhouses. Some of the best surviving examples are on Dartmoor (such as the settlement at Grimspound). Metal tools using copper from mines like Great Orme in north Wales begin to replace flint. The Dover boat, the world's oldest seagoing vessel, belongs to this period.

### 800BC

A new type of metal – iron – comes into use, replacing the trade in bronze. Large settlements of people grow in many areas and the first defended hill forts are built. In some regions 'ranch boundaries' are put in place to mark out areas of grazing land.

### 100BC

New elite groups of people emerge with access to innovative machines and ideas from the Continent, such as the potter's wheel and coinage. These are associated with a few large settlements known as 'oppida', including Colchester in Essex and Silchester in Hampshire. The hill forts are abandoned, though smaller roundhouse settlements continue to be built. Eventually tribal kingdoms develop, starting in south-east England.

### Late Upper Palaeolithic (End of the Ice Age)



### Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age)

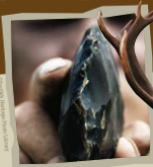
### 12000BC

Britain emerges from the Ice Age and begins to warm. People return to the land for the first time and hunt mammals, such as reindeer and Arctic hare. They also make engravings of animals inside caves, some of which can still be seen in Church Hole cave at Creswell Crags. This is Britain's oldest art.



### 9500BC

As it continues to get warmer, the cold, dry habitat is replaced by woodland. The large mammals (megafauna) are replaced by forest creatures like red deer and wild cattle. These animals are hunted with bow and arrow.



### 3700BC

The first monuments in Britain are built. These communal tombs (called long barrows) and enclosures appear to be used for feasting, funerals and for exchanging stone and flint axes. Examples include West Kennet Long Barrow and Windmill Hill causewayed enclosure, both near Avebury, Wiltshire.

### 3000BC

The first henges (circular enclosures defined by a ditch and bank) are built, including Thornborough in North Yorkshire, and Stones of Stenness in Orkney. The first timber and stone circles date to this period too, such as Castlerigg in Cumbria.

### 2000BC

Round barrows (mounds of earth or stone) are constructed all across Britain, marking the locations of graves and ceremony sites. Burial rituals shift from burying human remains with beakers to cremating the dead in pots called urns. Small stone and timber circles are still built, including the 'Seahenge' timber circle, now in Lynn Museum, Norfolk.

### 1300BC

A timber causeway is built over the wetlands at Flag Fen near Peterborough. It becomes the focus for leaving ceremonial offerings of bronze objects such as swords, spearheads, daggers and pins. In other locations metalwork is buried in hoards or deposited in rivers.

### 400BC

A small number of 'developed hill forts' with massive ramparts are built, perhaps marking the emergence of tribal territories. Examples include Maiden Castle in Dorset and Danebury in Hampshire. These sites are for display as much as for defence.

### AD43

The Romans invade. Their arrival leads to the development of towns and roads across much of England. The Prehistoric Age has come to an end and a new era is dawning.

### REALLY ancient Britons!

The earliest humans in Britain are believed to have lived about 800,000 years ago at a site called Happisburgh on the Norfolk coast.

The oldest human remains were found in Boxgrove, Sussex and are around 500,000 years old. They show evidence that early humans were butchering wild animals and making flint tools.

Between 200,000 and 100,000BC Britain is apparently abandoned by humans.

In a timeline of this scale, the last 2011 years would be just one millimetre wide.

AD2011

Period shown above 0

### The rest of the world

**6000BC** An estimated 7 million people inhabit the earth.  
**3000BC** The earliest known writing is produced in South Mesopotamia (Ancient Iraq).  
**2800BC** One of the earliest settled civilisations is formed in the Indus Valley, Pakistan.  
**2500BC** The Great Pyramid at Giza, Egypt is built.  
**776BC** The first Olympic Games are held in Greece.  
**753BC** Romulus and Remus found Rome.  
**AD2011** Between 6 and 7 billion people inhabit the earth.

bbc.co.uk/history

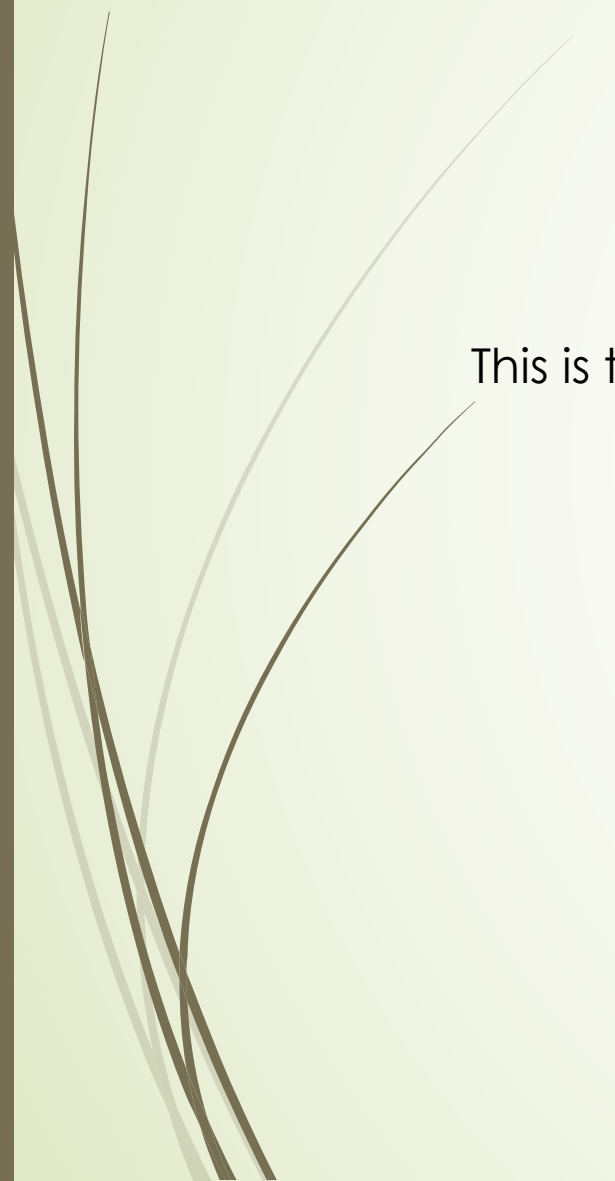

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The Bronze Age 3000 BCE (before common era) - 1200 BCE  
Have a look at this clip and then answer the questions.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zh3qmfr>

1. What new invention was introduced?
2. How did the metal improve tools?
3. How did better tools improve farming?
4. Where did Bronze Age people dig to make metal? What did they dig up?
5. How did the metal tools help with the production of new clothes?
6. How do you think trading helped people in the Bronze Age community in Britain?

As an extra challenge you can create a fact sheet with at least 5 facts about tools and farming in the Bronze Age based on what we have looked at today and facts we learnt together at school, if you can remember! 😊



This is the end of today's history task, come back another day to do  
activity 2 😊



## SESSION 2

In the last session we had we reminded ourselves of the pre historic timeline and explored the Bronze Age. Today, we are going to look at something called The Shang Dynasty.





The Shang Dynasty were the leaders of China during the Bronze Age. The Shang ruled from 1600-1046 BCE (Before common era)

Watch this clip and have a go at answering the following questions 😊

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-introducing-the-shang-dynasty/zv79wtv>

1. Name some of the tools that were used.
2. What were the tools made from?
3. Why were ox bones important?
4. How do you think the market helped the community?

Extra challenge: - You could create a fact sheet about the Shang Dynasty based on today's task and any further research 😊