



# A PREHISTORIC TIMELINE



A journey through the art, tools, clothes, weapons and peoples of prehistory.



The oldest tools made by man include the Oldowan chopper cores, dating from 2.5 million years BCE.



Acheulean hand axe, around 1.8 million BCE.



First evidence of fire use, 400,000 BCE.

Homo erectus, 1.8m to 30,000 BCE.

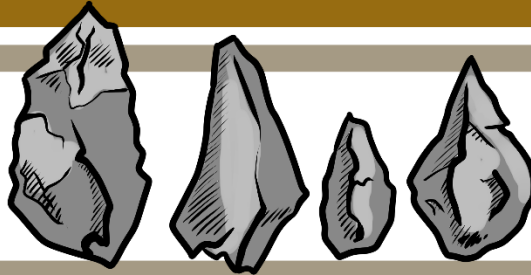


THE LOWER PALEOLITHIC  
2.5 million to 300,000 BCE

Anglian  
Glaciation  
475,000 to  
425,000 BCE



Early neanderthal art, showing a ladder.



Found across Europe, Africa and Asia, Levallois flint spear heads are evidence of advanced stonework.


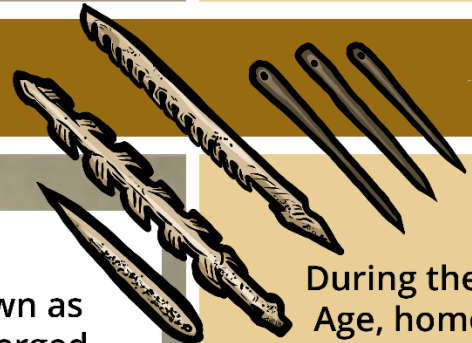
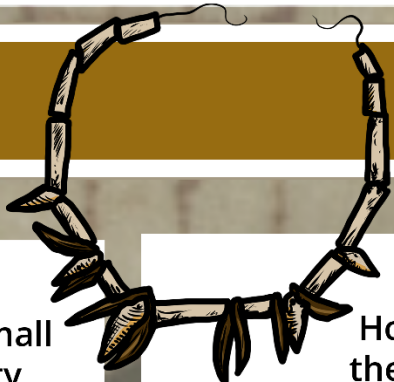


Homo neanderthalis, better known as the neanderthals, were a race of primitive tool-makers, who lived and ranged all across Europe and Asia from 350,000 to around 28,000 BCE.



## THE MIDDLE PALEOLITHIC 300,000 to 28,000 BCE



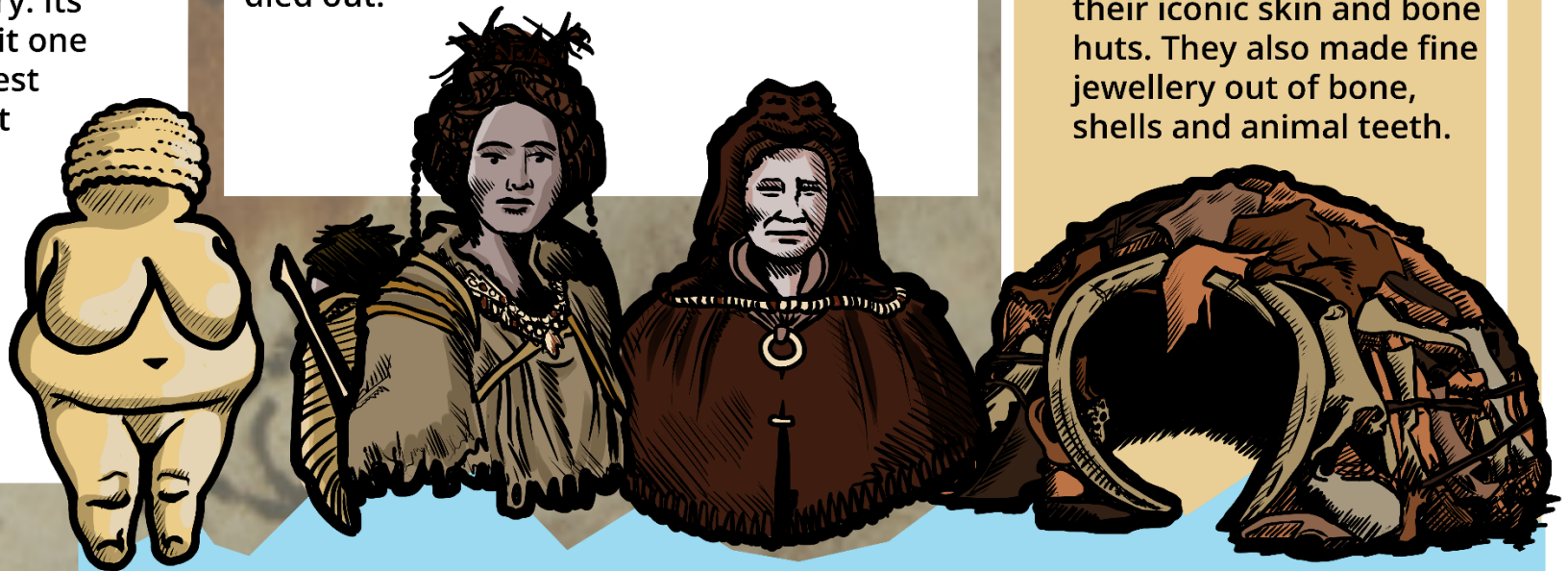


The Venus of Willendorf is a small sandstone fertility statue, found in Austria in the early 20th Century. Its age makes it one of the earliest works of art made by humans.

30,000 BCE.

Homo Sapiens, also known as the human race, first emerged in the middle paleolithic, around 200,000 BCE, but became dominant after the neanderthals died out.

During the long Ice Age, homo sapiens spread across the world, with their advanced stone work, furs, and their iconic skin and bone huts. They also made fine jewellery out of bone, shells and animal teeth.



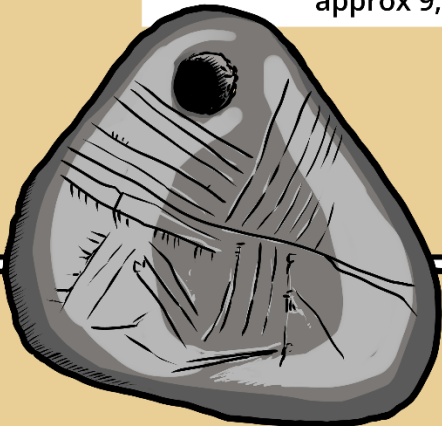
THE UPPER PALEOLITHIC  
30,000 to 12,000 BCE

Ice Age  
25,000 to 12,000 BCE.



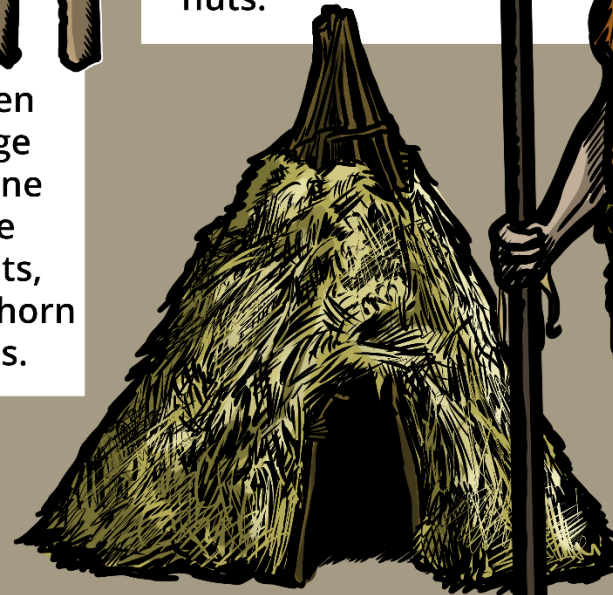
The Shigir Idol is one of the oldest wooden carvings ever found. Discovered in Russia in 1894, the Idol is around 11,500 years old.

The Star Carr pendant, a carved stone found in Yorkshire, is one of the oldest mesolithic items ever found in Britain. approx 9,000 BCE.



As well as wooden arrows, Stone Age Britons used stone and flint to make axes and hatchets, and sometimes horn or bone weapons.

Stone age Britons of the mesolithic era were hunters, who often lived in grass or hay huts.



## THE MESOLITHIC 12,000 to 5,000 BCE

Britain becomes an island.  
6,100 BCE.





Tools such as flint axes, and daggers with carved bone handles, were common among the neolithic people. They also made very fine decorated clay pottery and jewellery.



This elaborate stone ball, covered in carved patterns, was found in Scotland in the 1850s. 3,000 BCE.



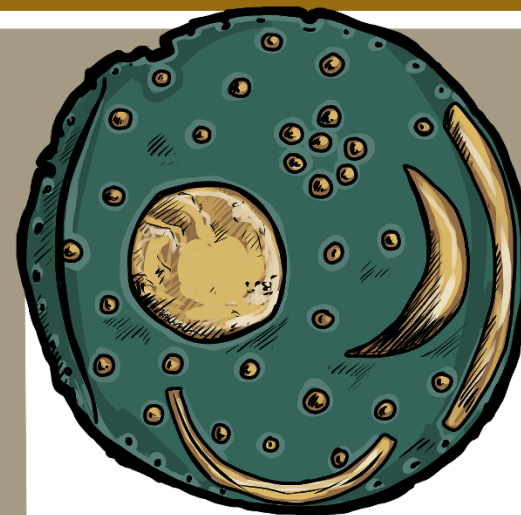
Later neolithic houses were built out of wooden struts caked in dried mud and clay. This technique stuck around, with some refinements, for thousands of years!



THE NEOLITHIC  
5,000 to 2,300 BCE



Bronze age Britons, now engaged in farming and the raising of livestock, wore clothes of tanned leather, furs and skins, often wearing fabulous gold and bronze jewellery as signs of wealth and status. Their houses had strong walls and finely-thatched reed and hay roofs.



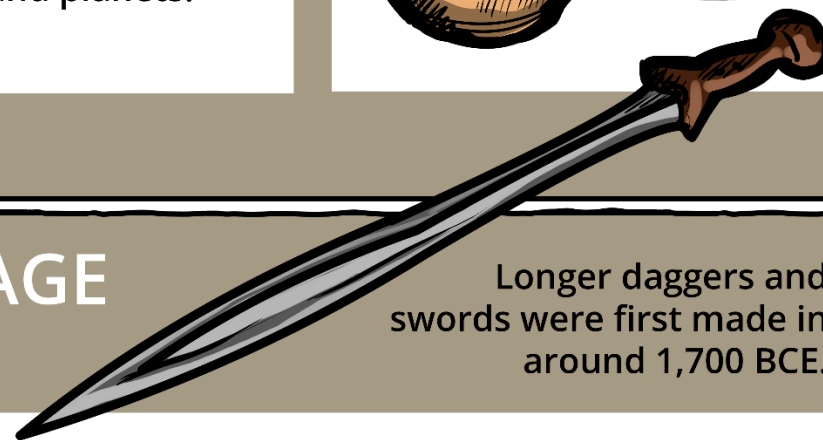
The Nebra sky disc, found in Germany, is a stunning bronze and copper work of art, demonstrating an advanced knowledge of the stars and planets. 1,600 BCE.

Bronze age pottery took on many forms, often decorated with intricate zig-zag patterns.



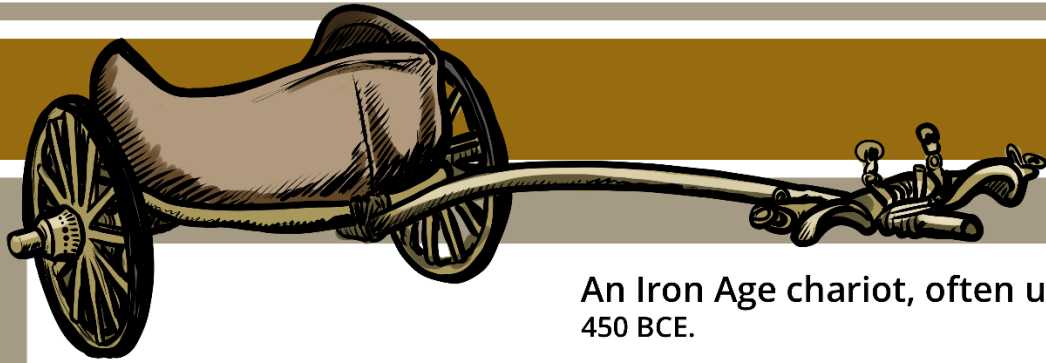
## THE BRONZE AGE

2,300 to 650 BCE



Longer daggers and swords were first made in around 1,700 BCE.





An Iron Age chariot, often used in burials.  
450 BCE.



Golden torc.

Iron Age Britons, sometimes known as the Celts, were highly advanced in agriculture, metalwork and trade. Fabulous Iron Age jewellery, including the famous golden torc, was traded widely across Europe.



Iron Age tools were often very elaborate, including these agricultural items.

# THE IRON AGE

650 BCE to 43 AD



Belgic pottery.  
60 to 40 BCE.

The birth of Jesus.  
3 BCE.

