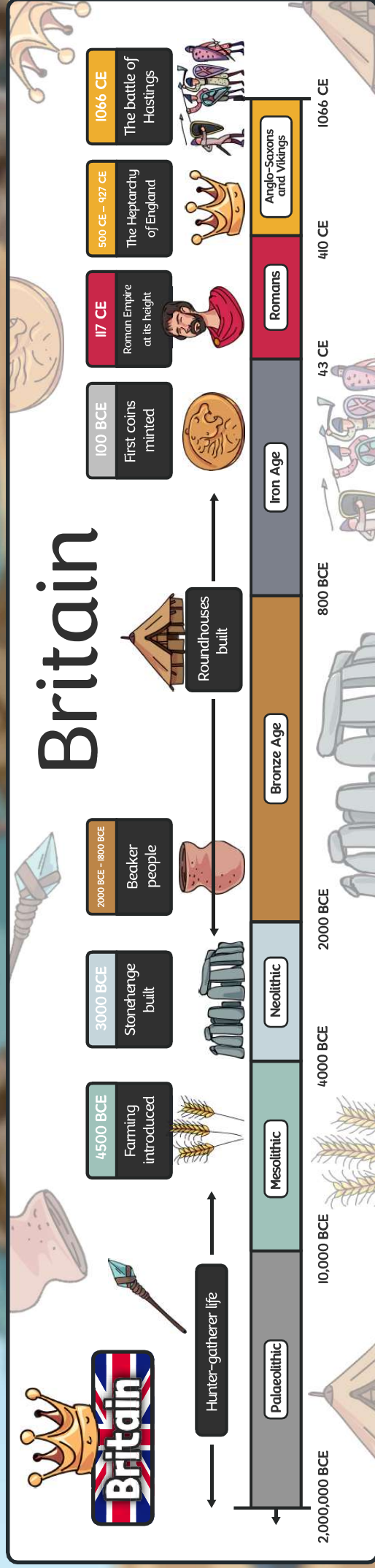


The Stone Age

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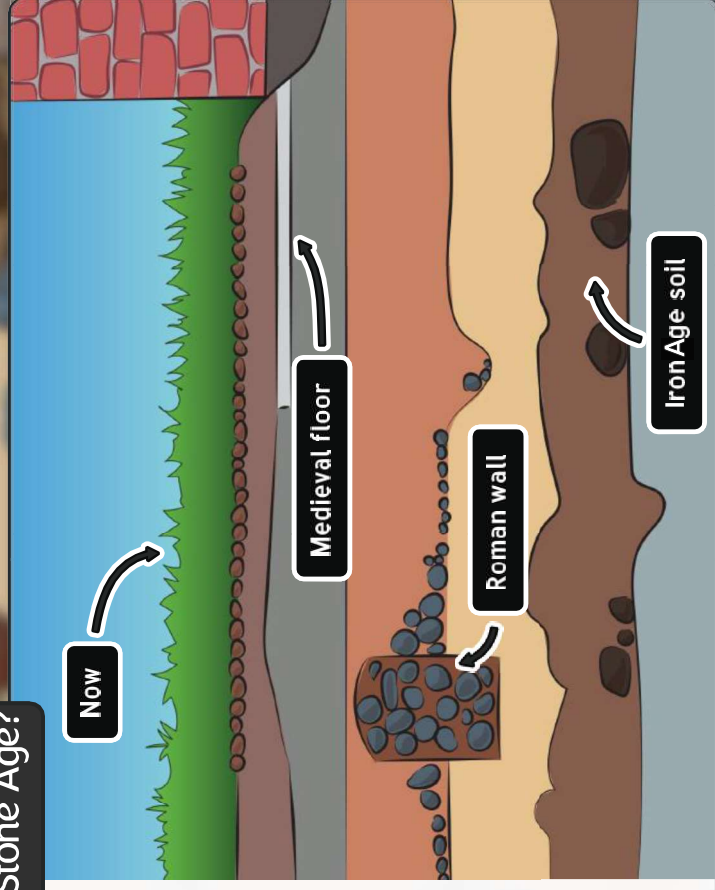
The Stone Age is a period of our history that happened thousands of years ago. It is called the Stone Age because it is the era when early humans started using stone for tools and weapons. They also used stones to light fires.

The Stone Age is divided into three periods; the Palaeolithic (old Stone Age), Mesolithic (middle Stone Age) and the Neolithic (new Stone Age).

Palaeolithic and Mesolithic people were hunter-gatherers. They moved frequently following the animals they hunted and gathered fruits and berries when they could.

How do we know about the Stone Age?

There is no written evidence from the Stone Age era. Instead, archaeologists dig to find clues about how people lived before written records existed. Artefacts such as bones, jewellery and pottery have been found deep in the ground and help archaeologists piece together what life was like in different eras. The deeper in the ground that the archaeologists find artefacts, the older they are.



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Hunter-gatherers

During the Stone Age, Britain was very different. It was originally connected to the rest of Europe by a piece of land called Doggerland.

Doggerland eventually disappeared when the sea level rose over thousands of years.

Archaeologists believe that many people lived here during the Stone Age.



People living during the Stone Age were hunters. They would hunt animals to eat such as woolly mammoths, reindeers and woolly rhinoceros. However, they did not just hunt animals to eat them. Animals had many different uses. They would use the animal's woolly coat to keep them warm in the winter and they would use animal horns as tools, weapons or even to help clear snow out of their path!



Ivory, bone and sinew to make tools and weapons

Meat to eat and fat to create paints for artwork

Fur to make clothes

During the Neolithic Stone Age, people started to settle and not follow animals. They would plant the seeds from the plants they gathered and looked after them so that they would grow. When the plants were fully grown, the people would use their stone and bone tools to cut the plants, so that they could turn them into food and eat them. People also captured smaller animals such as dogs, pigs and sheep. They looked after them so that they would have babies. This meant that they would have bigger groups of animals near their homes that they could milk, skin for hides/fur and kill for meat/bone for food and tools.



The animals would often migrate around the land, not staying in one place. People during this time built temporary homes so that they could move quickly to follow the animals and continue to hunt. The Stone Age people also ate fish that were caught in rivers and lakes, gathered animals eggs, fruits, nuts and plants.

