

Local Area

Where do we live?

Our continent is **Europe**.
 Our Country is **England**.
 Our area is the **West Midlands**
 Our City is **Wolverhampton**
 Our town is **Bilston**.

Why are West Bromwich and the Black Country important?

West Bromwich is part of a wider area called the 'Black Country'. The Black Country got its name because of the coal and lock making industry. A lot of factories were built and they needed coal to run the machines.
 There were lots and lots of coal mines around this area and we used coal to fire up the machines in the factories.
 The Black Country was known to be '*black by day and red by night*'. This is because the flames and smoke from burning the coal turned the sky red and black.

Coal mining is getting **coal** from the ground:

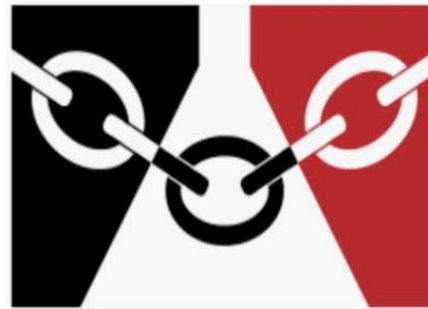
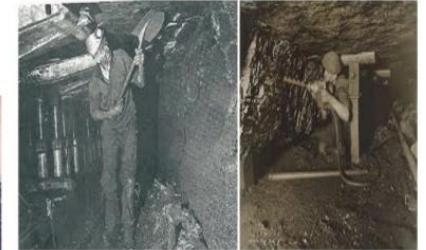


Key Knowledge

A coal mine and its structure is called a **colliery**:

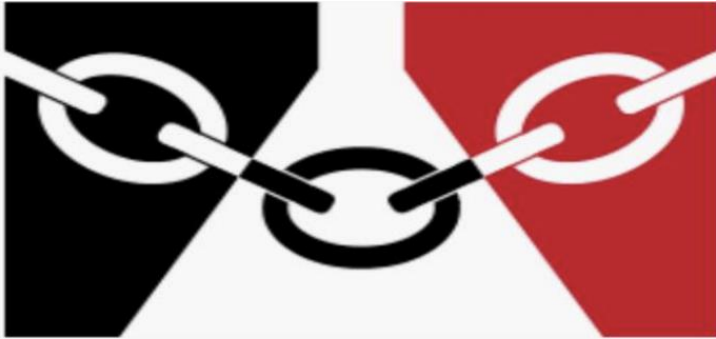


Coal mining underground long time ago:



Key Vocabulary




Coal	A material found underground. Very good for burning fires.
Coal mine	Underground tunnel where Coal was found.
Factory	A large building where things are made.
Local Area	Where we live.
Industry	Lots of factories working to produce lots of things.



What was it like in the mines?

Men typically worked in the mines along with small children. Small children were used in the mines as they were small enough to squeeze into tight spaces. Mines were very dangerous as there was very little light, lots of fumes and the smoky air would make it difficult to breathe. Sometimes there would be leaking gas in the mines which was very dangerous as it could cause big explosions.

There were lots of different jobs in the mines. The jobs were; trappers, hurriers and getters. They didn't get paid very much for their hard work, sometimes they would work for up to 15 hours a day!

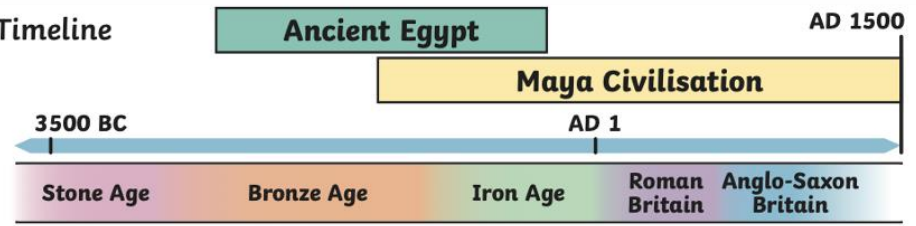
Job	Role
Trapper 	Open and close the trap doors to allow the mining carts to pass through.
Hurrier 	Transport the carts of coal up through the tunnels.
Getter 	Using tools to cut the coal away from the coal face or wall!

The Anglo-Saxons

Key Vocabulary

Angles	Tribes from an area today known as modern day Denmark that settled in Britain from around AD 450. They were one of the tribes that became known as the first Anglo-Saxons.
Saxons	A tribe from the north coast of Europe, especially Germany, that settled in Britain from around AD 450. They were one of the tribes that became known as the first Anglo-Saxons.
Picts	Tribes originally from Scotland who were often feared.
Scots	People from Ireland who, like the Picts , were fierce and powerful fighters.
invaders	People who enter an area and take control of it by force.
kingdom	An area ruled by a king or queen.
Pagan	Someone who follows the Paganism religion and worships many gods and goddesses.
Christianity	A religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Timeline



The Romans Leave Britain

By c. AD 410, the last of the Romans had left Britain. This made Britain vulnerable to invasion. The warriors that **invaded** became known as the first Anglo-Saxons. Most of Britain was divided into seven Anglo-Saxon **kingdoms**.

The **Picts** and **Scots** were a constant threat without Roman support.

- 1 Northumbria
- 2 Mercia
- 3 East Anglia
- 4 Wessex
- 5 Essex
- 6 Kent
- 7 Sussex



Living in Anglo-Saxon Britain

The Romans preferred living in towns but the Anglo-Saxons preferred to live in small villages.

Anglo-Saxon influence can be seen in place names in Britain today. Wessex was a place named after the West **Saxons** who settled there. Sussex was named after the South **Saxons**.

The **kingdom** of Mercia (which means border people) was named Mercia because it had so many borders with other **kingdoms**.

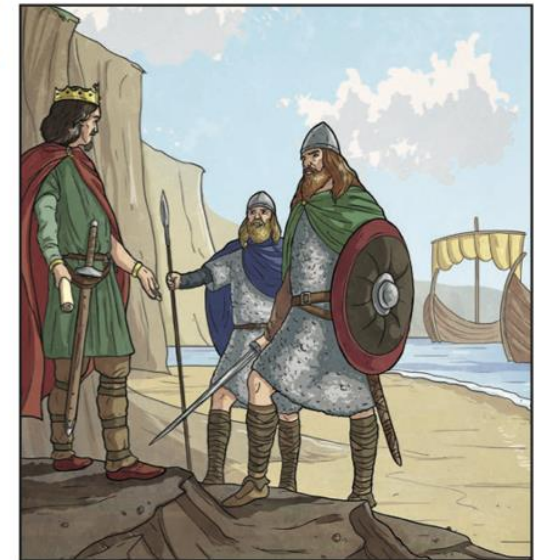
Key Figures in Anglo-Saxon Britain

King Vortigern	The king left in charge after the Romans left Britain.
Hengest and Horsa	King Vortigern's brothers from Jutland (in modern day Denmark). They helped to keep the Picts and Scots out of Britain.
Augustine	A Roman monk who was sent to Britain to persuade the Britons to become Christians . After his death, he was made a saint.
King Ethelbert	The king of Kent who was the first King to convert to Christianity .
Columba	An Irish abbot (head of a monastery) who introduced Christianity to Scotland.
King Oswald	The king of Northumbria who introduced Christianity to his people.
Aidan	An Irish monk who helped King Oswald introduce Christianity in Northumbria. He became the first bishop of Lindisfarne.

Anglo-Saxon Paganism

The religion of the early Anglo-Saxons was **Paganism**. They worshipped many gods. Festivals and sacrifices were made to the gods and goddesses.

Pagans also believed in good and bad omens, lucky charms, spells and magic. They would perform many rituals that they believed would protect them in this life and the next.



The Anglo-Saxons and Christianity

At the end of this period, **Christianity** became the main religion in Britain.

In AD 597, a Roman monk called Augustine was sent to tell the Anglo-Saxons about **Christianity**.

King Ethelbert of Kent was the first to be converted and was baptised along with 10,000 of his people.

Over the next 100 years, the rest of the kingdoms converted to **Christianity** too.

Christian Places of Worship

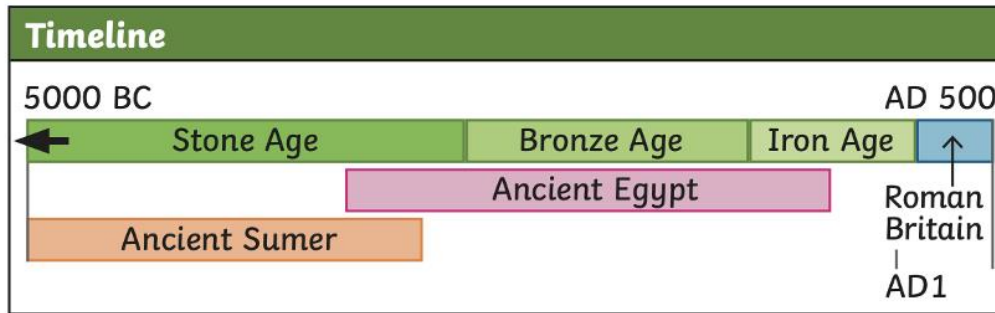
Many **Christian** places of worship were built at this time.

Canterbury Cathedral was founded by Augustine. It was rebuilt from AD 1070 after a fire.

A monastery was built on the island of Lindisfarne. This Holy Island was very influential and the monks here were successful at spreading **Christianity** across the north of England.



Key Changes and Events	
3000 BC	The village of Skara Brae is built in Orkney. The people who live there are beginning to farm their own food and build homes instead of travelling from place to place.
	Construction starts on Stonehenge in Wiltshire. It will take around 1000 years for it to be finished.
2500 BC	'Bell Beaker' culture arrives in Britain. These people are named for their distinctive decorative pottery.
2100 BC	Bronze begins to be used in Britain to make weapons and tools.
1800 BC	The first large copper mines are dug.
1200 BC	'Celtic' culture begins to arrive in Britain and tribal kingdoms develop.
800 BC	Iron begins to be used in Britain to make tools and weapons, instead of bronze .
	The first hillforts are constructed.
AD 43	The Romans invade Britain.



Stone Age Life

The Stone Age is named after the stone tools that the earliest humans used to help them survive. They used them to kill animals, such as mammoths, for their meat, **bone marrow** and skins. The bones were also useful for making tools, such as needles to sew skins together.

People in the Stone Age moved around from place to place with the seasons, in order to keep safe and warm and to follow the animals they hunted.

Skara Brae

Skara Brae was discovered after a storm in AD 1850 removed the earth that had been covering it. It is a village of eight houses, linked by covered passageways. Not all of the houses were built at the same time. The later ones are slightly bigger but they have very similar features, such as a central firepit and stone shelves. The village tells us a lot about life in the late Stone Age, including what people ate and what sort of tools they used.

Stonehenge

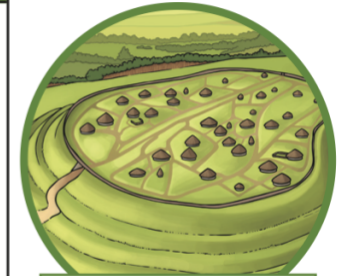
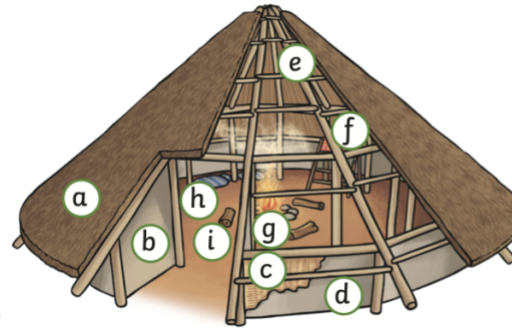
Stonehenge is a famous prehistoric monument in southern England, built at the end of the Stone Age and into the **Bronze** Age. Originally, it was just an **earthwork** and up to 150 people were buried there. The huge stones that we see were added in different stages. Some were brought from 240 miles away in Wales.



Key Vocabulary	
bronze	A metal alloy made from a mixture of copper and tin. It is a much harder and more long-lasting material than stone or copper alone.
alloy	A metal made by combining two or more metals to improve its properties.
bone marrow	The substance inside bones, which is high in fat and a good energy source.
earthwork	A large bank or mound of soil that has been made on purpose.
Celt	A modern term for the people living in Europe during the Iron Age. The 'Celts' were made up of many different tribes . The word 'Celt' comes from a Greek word.
sacrifice	To give something up, break it or kill it as an offering to a god or gods.
tribe	A group of people, often related through family, culture and language, usually with one leader.
iron	A metal that is stronger and harder than bronze .

Roundhouses

- a. thick thatch
- b. door
- c. wattle
- d. daud
- e. timber frame
- f. upright loom
- g. hearth (fire)
- h. beds
- i. logs for sitting on



An **Iron** Age hillfort

Hillforts

People in the **Bronze** Age and **Iron** Age lived in roundhouses. These could be very large and would have housed many people. One household might have had two houses, one for living and one for cooking and making things. In the **Iron** Age, these houses were sometimes rectangular and were often gathered in farming communities on hills. These were known as 'hillforts'.

Between 500 and 100 BC, many parts of Britain were dominated by hillforts. These settlements provided a home for hundreds, and later thousands, of people.

Druids

Druids were the priests of the **tribes** we call 'Celts'. Their job was to communicate with the more than 400 gods that the people of the **tribes** believed in. They believed the gods lived in nature. The main festivals were based around important times in the farming year. The Druids **sacrificed** food, precious objects and even humans to keep the gods happy.

Druids were also like doctors and lawyers. They found cures in plants and resolved disagreements. Their opinions were more important than those of the king. It took at least 20 years to train to be a Druid. However, we only know about them from what the Romans wrote down.