

# Stone, Iron and Bronze

The ages of human development are named after the materials that they used to make tools and weapons. For most of the 800,000 years of prehistoric Britain, stone, or rocks were the most used material. This is why we call this time the Stone Age. Flint was a very special rock, it is hard and can be very sharp. The first metal used was Bronze and so this was called the Bronze Age. Can you find out what two metals Bronze is made from? What name do we give to a metal made from two or more other metals?

What would you call our age?

## Tools and Technology

What do you think of when someone says 'the latest technology'? Do you think of the tablet computer you are using now? or perhaps your smartphone or games console? If you lived 800,000 years ago the latest technology would have been a rock that had been carefully shaped so that you could crack an animal bone to eat the marrow inside. Moving forward 250,000 years you could use a flint scraper to help you scrape the flesh off an animal skin so you could wear it or make a pouch. Travel forward another 300,000 more years and you may be looking at your reflection in one of the most high tech objects of the time, a polished Bronze mirror.

### Tap to Knap!

Turning a lump of flint into a sharp tool or an arrowhead was an incredibly skillful thing to do. Bone or antler hammers were used to 'knap' flakes of flint off the rock and turn it into a sharpened tool. **Did you know a flint blade is sharper than a surgeon's scalpel?**

## Hand Axe

The images below show how one of the most useful tools, the hand axe developed over thousands of years. The first hand axes were just stones picked up that looked sharp. Our ancestors learned over thousands of years to make them out of different materials like flint and eventually discovered how to extract metal from stone and make a tool that you might recognise today. Some tools and the technology to make them came from other countries.

