

The time before the Romans came to Britain is called prehistory. People couldn't write. How do we know what happened?

People called Neanderthals lived here in Wales - archeologists have even found a tooth from that time in a cave!

After the Ice Age ended, more people lived here. There are lots of places that tell us about them.



Farmers started keeping animals and growing crops in the Neolithic times.



Did you know that there was a place in North Wales where axe heads were made? It was like a factory, but with no machines!

# Bones and Stones



These are burial chambers.

The stones for this came from hundreds of miles away. I wonder how they were moved?



This chamber has amazing rock art inside it.

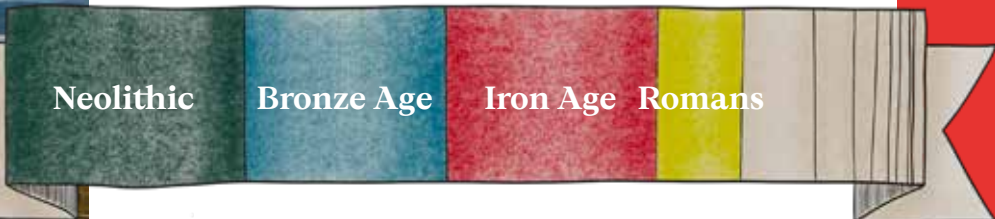


By the Iron Age people used metal for all sorts of things including art. The Iron Age people also built hillforts.



In the Bronze Age people started making tools out of copper and bronze. There's a whole prehistoric copper mine in Llandudno.

When the Romans invaded, they started to write things down. They said the people who lived here were 'savage'. Do you think this was true?

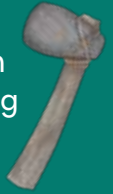




The time before the Romans came to Britain in AD 47 is referred to as prehistory because it's before the written word came to these islands. Wales, of course, didn't exist in the way we understand it today. There was no Wales/England border, and Great Britain was still attached to mainland Europe, before sea levels rose and we became an island nation.



**Factories and farming**  
Stones weren't just special or religious objects. In the hills above Penmaenmawr there's an amazing Neolithic axe 'factory' that made out hammerstones and axe heads. These have been found across Wales and England. The first farmers appeared at this time in history, taming the landscape by growing crops and raising livestock.

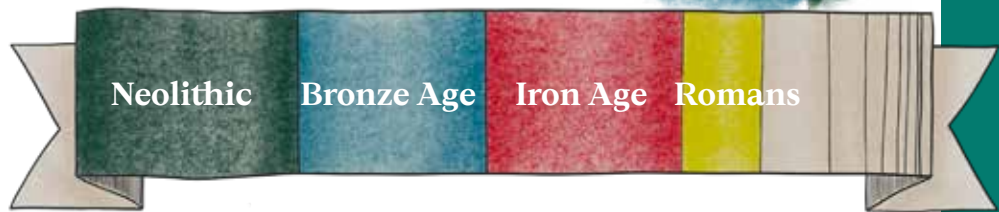


# Bones and Stones

## The dead reveal their details

It's thought that Neanderthals, a species of human that is now extinct, started living in Wales around 230,000 years ago. Excavations at Pontnewydd Cave near St Asaph have revealed simple stone tools and human teeth from this period.

Homo sapiens, our ancestors, arrived about 31,000 BC. Did you know that Wales is home to Western Europe's earliest formal human burial? The bones are known as the 'Red Lady of Paviland' and were found in a sea-cave on the Gower Peninsula from around 33,000 years ago. But it turns out there was a mistake, and the Red Lady is in fact a Red Man!



## Breaking the ice

The last Ice Age gripped Wales for 100,000 years. It was not until after this time that Wales was properly settled.

Wales has a wealth of remains like the burial monuments scattered across the landscape. Two of the most interesting burial chambers are at opposite ends of the country: Barclodiad y Gawres on Anglesey and Pembrokeshire's Pentre Ifan.



## The coming of the Celts

The Iron Age in Wales is known for the newly discovered creation of iron, which was used for stunning Celtic art, and the building of hillforts.

When the Romans began to invade our shores, they wrote down what happened. The natives, often called 'Celts', were described by the Romans as primitive savages. But how true do you think that really was, especially as the Celts and Romans didn't like each other...



## Putting the pedal to the metal

The next step in history takes us from stones into metal. The most amazing Bronze Age reminder is the Great Orme Copper Mine above Llandudno, believed to be the world's largest known prehistoric mine.





History is divided into sections with names that each describe a different time in history. The time before the Romans came to Britain in AD 47 is called prehistory because it's before people could read and write, so nothing about this time was written by the people who lived then. This implies that we don't know much about what happened in the 'dim and distant past'. In fact, we know a great deal...

The country of Wales didn't exist in the way we understand it today. There was no border between Wales and anywhere else. More importantly, Great Britain was still attached to mainland Europe, before the sea levels rose and we became an island nation.

Factories and farming  
Stones weren't just revered or religious objects. In the hills above Penmaenmawr there's an amazing Neolithic axe 'factory' that made hammerstones and axe heads that have since been found across Wales and England.

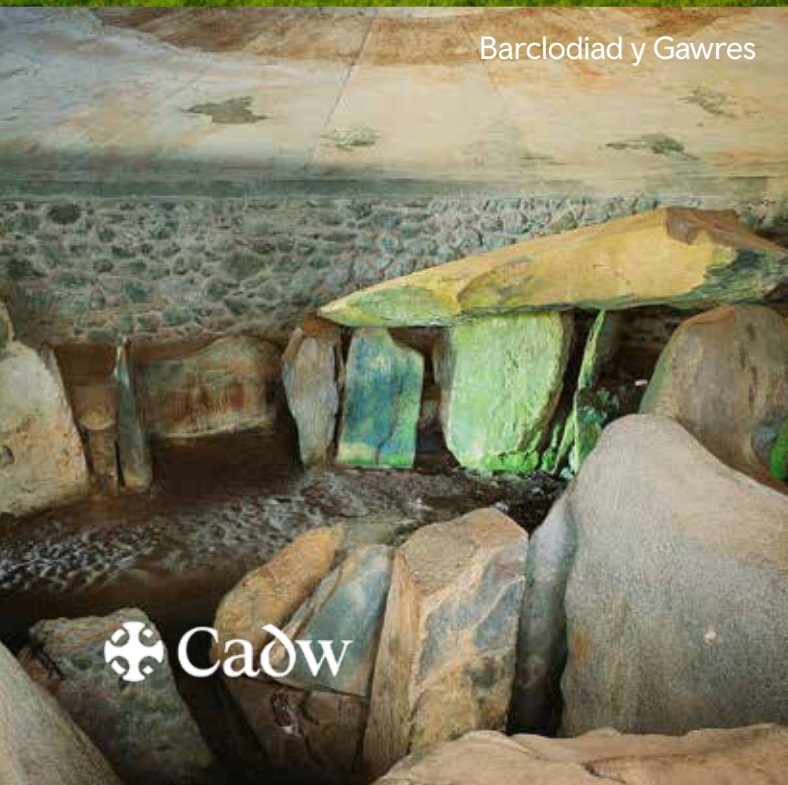
At this time in history, the first farmers made their appearance, taming the landscape by growing crops and raising livestock.



# Bones and Stones



Pentre Ifan



Barclodiad y Gawres

## The dead reveal their details

There were people roaming the land from far and wide. It's thought that Neanderthals, a species of human that is now extinct, stopped roaming and came to live in Wales around 230,000 years ago. Excavations at Pontnewydd Cave near St Asaph have revealed simple stone tools and human teeth (discovered by National Museum Wales and now part of its collection) from this period.

Homo sapiens, our ancestors, arrived about 31,000 BC. Did you know that Wales is home to Western Europe's earliest formal human burial? The bones, red from the earth they were in, are known as the 'Red Lady of Paviland' and were found in a sea-cave on the Gower Peninsula from around 33,000 years ago. But it turns out that someone made a mistake, and the Red Lady is in fact a Red Man!

## Breaking the ice

The last Ice Age gripped Wales for 100,000 years. It was not until after this period that Wales was properly settled, starting the early Stone Age (8,000BC), and ending in the Bronze Age (800 BC). Wales has a wealth of remains like the burial monuments scattered across the landscape. Two of the most intriguing burial chambers are at opposite ends of the country: Barclodiad y Gawres on Anglesey and Pembrokeshire's Pentre Ifan.





Iron Age hillfort

### Putting the pedal to the metal

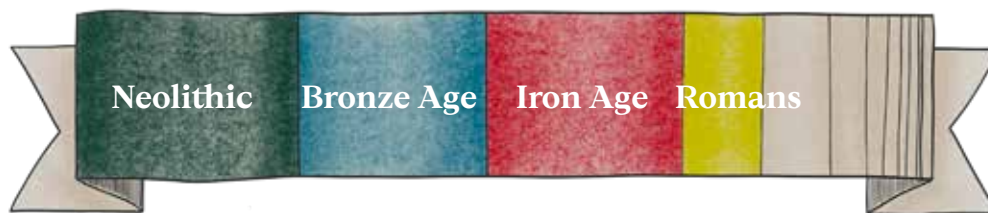
The next step in history takes us from stones into copper and later bronze. The most striking Bronze Age reminder is the extraordinary Great Orme Copper Mine above Llandudno, believed to be the world's largest known prehistoric mine.

### The coming of the Celts

The Iron Age in Wales is characterised by the newly discovered creation of iron, stunning Celtic art and the building of hillforts. Look upwards almost anywhere in Wales and you'll sense the ghostly presence of monuments new to the Iron Age as many Welsh hills are still crowned with massive, weather-beaten Iron Age earth and stone enclosures, all dug by hand. A classic example is Crug Hywel above the little town of Crickhowell in the Brecon Beacons.



When the Romans began to invade our shores, they kept a written record. The natives, often referred to as 'Celts', were described as primitive savages, but how much of this was in reaction to the threat of invasion? And how biased was Roman propaganda? After all, history is usually written by the winners...



Let's not forget that at the dusk of prehistoric times the people of Wales were the people of Britain, sharing a common culture. Our current notion of Wales and England did not exist, and the story of the native Britons against the invading Romans is a tale for another day.



The Great Orme