

Glossary

archaeologist n. someone who studies the past by recovering and examining remaining material evidence, such as graves, buildings, tools, bones and pottery.

archaeology n. the study of past human life and culture by the recovery and examination of remaining evidence, such as graves, buildings, bones and pottery.

cave dweller n. someone who lives in a cave.

cave painting n. representations of wild, animals, painted on the walls of caves by prehistoric peoples, using simple tools such as fingers, twigs and leaves and using colours found in nature such as brown, red, black and green.

chalcolithic adj. relating to the period in human culture before the bronze age, characterised by the use of copper and stone.

cro-magnon adj. an early form of modern human inhabiting Europe in the late paleolithic period (40,000 - 10,000 years ago). Skeletal remains were first found in the Cro-Magnon cave in southern France.

dolmen n. structure usually regarded as a tomb, consisting of two or more large upright stones set with a space between and capped by a horizontal stone.

excavation site n. place where archaeologists dig to find evidence of how humans lived in the past.

flint n. very hard fine-grained quartz that spark when struck. Prehistoric peoples used this to make tools and start fire.

hominid n. any of the modern or extinct bipedal primates of the hominidae family including all of the species Homo and Australopithecus.

homo erectus n. extinct species of primitive hominid with upright stature but small brain.

homo neandertalis n. extinct robust human of Middle Paleolithic in Europe and western Asia

homo sapiens n. only surviving hominid; species to which modern man belongs; bipedal primate having language and ability to make and use complex tools; brain 1400 cc

iron age n. period following the Bronze Age; characterized by rapid spread of iron tools and weapons.

menhir n. prehistoric monument consisting of a single tall upright stone.

stone age n. earliest known period of human culture, characterized by the use of stone implements.