

Palaeolithic/Mesolithic

8000 BCE
(10,000 years ago)

@4m Palaeolithic/Mesolithic 8000BCE (10,000 years ago) and older

- The end of the piece of string is 10,000 years ago (8000BC). This is the beginning of the Mesolithic Era- the 'middle stone-age'.
- Before the Mesolithic is the time of our ancient ancestors and of Neanderthals, and that was called the Palaeolithic (the 'old stone age') time period.
- During the Palaeolithic, the climate in Britain kept getting too hot then too cold, so people didn't really live here very much.
- At the beginning of the Mesolithic people started to walk over to Britain from Europe on a piece of land called Doggerland, and started to live here from then on.
- People at this time used stone tools to hunt and cook and do lots of jobs, we know this archaeology.
- Then, about 8000 years ago, Doggerland was flooded by the water from melting glaciers. So, from now on Britain is an island, just like it is today.

Neolithic

4000 BCE

(6,000 years ago)

@2.5m Neolithic Started 4000BCE (6000 years ago)

This next point is the beginning of the Neolithic era, the 'new stone age'. It started about 6,000 years ago.

- The Neolithic is a really important time for Britain because it is when the people living here started to farm. They domesticated animals, like sheep and pigs, and they grew food, like wheat and barley.
- People went from being hunter-gatherer's (moving around the land, following where the animals and food was and not building permanent houses) to sedentary (building permanent houses and making the land customised for us).
- This is when people started to live around Pendle Hill, but not very many people....yet...
- They even started building monuments out of stone that are still around today, like Stonehenge.
- People lived off the land, farming and raising animals as well as hunting wild animals, but they were still using stone tools!

That is, until...



TOGETHER FOR OUR LANDMARK



Bronze Age

2,200-800 BCE

(4,200-2,800 years ago)

@2m Bronze Age. 2200-800BCE (4,200-2,800 years ago)

... about 4,300 years ago, when people learned how to make metal! It is the beginning of the era known as the Bronze Age.

- There were a group of people who lived in Europe called the Beaker People, and some archaeologists think they moved to Britain around this time and brought with them new ideas and technology. These archaeologists believe Beaker People were the ones who taught the skill of using copper to make things.
- Later, the Bronze age people learned how to use bronze, which is a mix of copper and tin. And this marks the start of the Bronze Age.
- The Beaker People were really skilled at making ornamental things out of gold, silver and copper, so archaeologists find really pretty things like jewellery and decorations on weapons, from this time period.
- There is a Bronze Age hillfort at Portfield near Whalley. People used to live in these fortified 'towns' that were placed in strategic locations with built-up defences and views of the landscape all around them.

People got really good at making things out of these metals, and then...

Iron Age

800 BCE-43 AD

(2,800-2,000 years ago)

@1m Iron Age. 800BCE-43AD (2,800 years ago to 2,000 years ago)

...about 2,700 years ago the skill of making iron reached Britain from Europe. The beginning of the Iron Age.

- Iron is much stronger than bronze, and there is more of it, too.
- Iron is strong enough that people started to use it in ploughs on farms, which meant they could go deeper and work faster than ever before.
- Iron tools like axes were also used to clear woodlands for more farms.
- People lived in small communities of people, called tribes, and all the tribes had different names and different leaders, called chieftains.
- They lived in places called hillforts, as well as in the countryside on farms.
- In the Pendle area, there is not much archaeological evidence of the Iron Age, but this is probably because we haven't found it, not that it isn't there! More archaeologists are needed to explore this time period of Lancashire history...
- People in Britain were famous in Europe, especially to the Romans who were building their empire. They came to Britain and saw the people were skilled wheat farmers and were known for exporting (traded) hunting dogs.

The Romans decided they wanted Britain to join the Empire, so....

Romans

43-410 AD
(1,900 years ago)

@90cm Romans AD43-410 AD (1,900 years ago)

...in AD43, the Romans invade Britain! Britain was too tempting, so they came and tried to conquer it.

- They brought lots of new ideas and technology to Britain, like economics, new ways of governing and organising things for the people (government), and infrastructure (roads and cities).
- They traded new products with the British and introduced a lot of new foods, like garlic, onions, cabbages, turnips, figs, cherries and grapes, plus spicy, flavourful food into Britain, too!
- Some of the tribes who lived in Britain seemed to be OK with the Romans coming and bringing all those things, but we don't know for sure. Some tribes were definitely NOT OK with the Romans, and they went to war with them to stop the Romans from taking over their lands.
- This is why Hadrian's Wall was built by the Roman army. Forts were built to help the soldiers defend and fight the native Britons who didn't want them there, along the wall.
- The Romans provided lots of positive things locally. There is a Roman road that runs between York and Ribchester which passes Pendle Hill which you can still see evidence of near Downham Village.
- Eventually... in AD410, Rome decided it didn't want Britain in the Empire anymore- it was costing too much money and the war with the native Britons was continuous. The Roman Empire left Britain, but many Roman people stayed and continued living here.

Medieval

1066-1500 AD
(1,100 years ago)

@40cm Medieval (1066-1500AD) 1,100 years ago

Now, we're going to skip forward a little bit here. After the Romans came the dark ages, and Anglo-Saxons and Vikings (410-1066AD) but we're going to jump forward to about 1,500 years...

- 1066- The Normans invade! William the Conqueror comes over from France and defeats Harold, the last of the Anglo-Saxon Kings, and conquers Britain. It is the beginning of the medieval period.
- England's population more than doubled between 1100-1300, which meant more residents in towns and cities. Nearly 1,500 villages were deserted by their inhabitants and many men and women sought new the opportunities and roles in the towns and cities.
- A new wave of monasteries and friaries were also established, but new religious laws led to tensions between some kings and the archbishops.
- The 14th century (1300's) in England saw the Great Famine and the Black Death (The Plague) two catastrophic events that killed around half of England's population.
- The medieval period is well-known for the building of castles all over the country for the use by lords and royalty as well as military strategy. In Pendle, the medieval period saw the building of Clitheroe Castle by the de Lacy family in the 12th century. You can still see it now.

Industrial Revolution

1760 AD onwards
(260 years ago)

@10cm Industrial Revolution (about 1760) 260 years ago

- In around 1760, the Industrial Revolution starts. It is a period of change in the manufacturing and production of goods, when people went from making things in small amounts to making vast amounts in factories and mills.
- Cotton, tarmac, and mining were the main industries that made Lancashire thrive. The imported cotton from the Middle East would arrive in the port of Liverpool and travel by river and rail to the various mills and factories in Pendle and all over Lancashire.
- Coal is plentiful in the area, so mining for this natural resource also supported all the industries around Pendle.
- Lancashire's damp climate was actually very useful in the manufacturing of cotton because it stopped the cotton thread from drying out and snapping when it was under strain.
- Nelson in Pendle grew into a thriving mill town during the Industrial Revolution, thanks to two nearby coal mines and the building of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal in 1796 and then the East Lancashire Railway Line in 1849.

World War II

1939-1945 AD
(80 years ago)

@3cm Modern period: World War II (1939-1945) 80 years ago

- World War II involved nations from almost all the parts of the world. It was between the axis powers – German, Italy, and Japan – and the Allies – France, Great Britain, the United States, Russia (the Soviet Union), and China.
- Between 40 million and 50 million people lost their lives during the conflict, including soldiers and civilians, making it the bloodiest and largest war in history.
- The war is also known as the 'Holocaust', which is from the Greek "helos" (whole) and "kaustos" (burned) and it refers to the treatment of the Jewish people of the axis powers. They were forced out of their homes into Concentration Camps and forced to work and suffered hunger, thirst and were also killed by the Nazis.
- The surrounding landscape around Pendle Hill was used as a practice firing range for training soldiers and the home guard, and fired munitions are often found by people on and around the hill.
- During the war, the farms around Pendleside grew food for the war effort. This supported local people during hard times and rationing.



Today

21st Century
(0 years ago)



TOGETHER FOR OUR LANDMARK



@The end of the string. Today! (21st Century)

- This is your time. Everything behind you, along the string, is all connected. We are all from history over the last 10,000 years.
- Think about what you want to leave behind for all the people in the future to look at.
- When there is the future bit of string, and future people look back at us now, what will they think?
- What will we leave behind for future archaeologist to discover?