

Stone Age (Neolithic)
10000 BC – 3001 BC



Fossil evidence indicates that humans used tools made of stone, wood, shell, and bone to cut softer materials.

Metallurgy, use of copper
5001 BC – 3001 BC



Artifacts in the ruins of cities indicate that populations supported by agriculture had the ability to create smelters, purify ores, and shape copper tools and ornaments.

Bronze Age
3301 BC – 1201 BC



Increasing skills allowed metalworkers to make hotter fires, smelting ores together to create alloys like bronze, and to make pottery from both metals and ceramic clays.

Iron Age
1301 BC – AD 400



By the first millenium BC, metalworkers could forge iron, and even steel (iron embedded with carbon for extra strenght) to create weapons and coins.

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