

Skara Brae



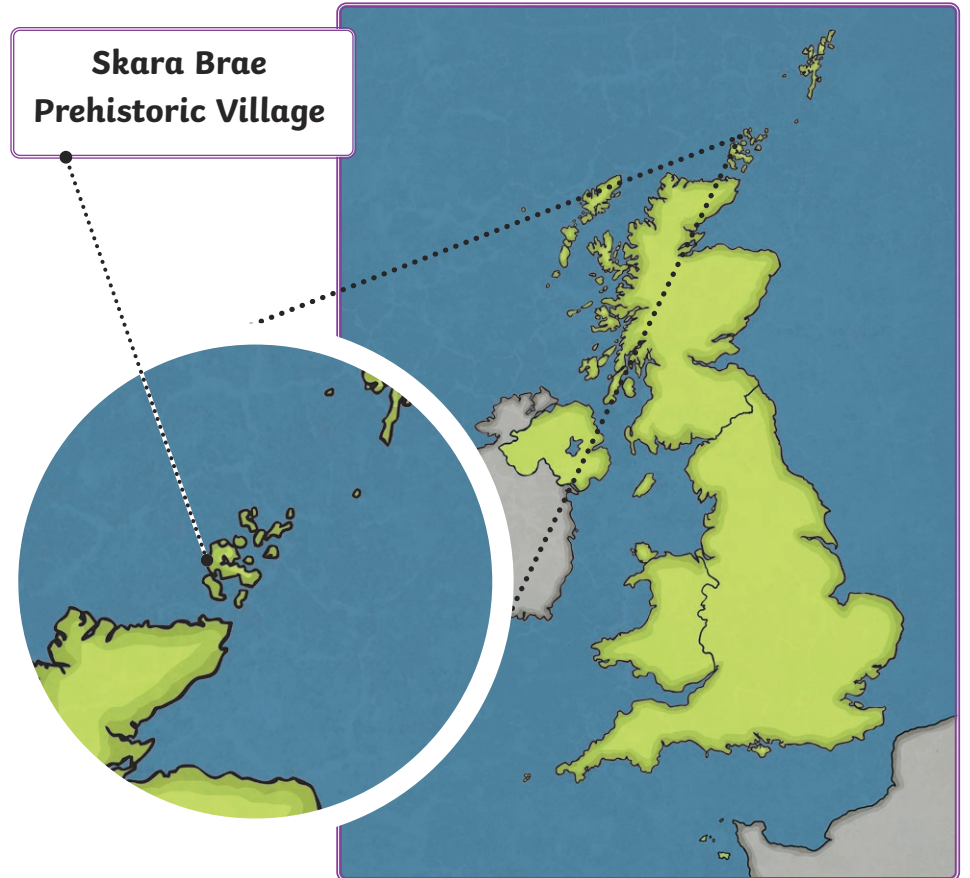
What Is Skara Brae?

Skara Brae is a remarkably well-**preserved** Stone Age village built in the Neolithic period, around 3000 BC. The walls of the homes that make up the settlement of Skara Brae were built with stones against 'midden' – heaps of discarded rubbish that would have protected the walls from the elements as well as provide a layer of insulation. It is not just the walls of the homes that were made of stone. The majority of the artefacts found were also made from stone as there was no wood (due to no trees) on Orkney.

Where Is Skara Brae?

Skara Brae can be found on Mainland, the largest of the islands that are part of Orkney. Orkney is located off the north coast of Scotland.

Skara Brae Prehistoric Village



Important Events in the History of Skara Brae

Date	Events
c. 3200–2200 BC	People are living in the village.
c. 2200 BC-AD 1850	The village is abandoned and over the years, sand covers the settlement, preserving everything inside. The settlement is hidden beneath the sand.
AD 1850	A huge storm uncovers the site of the settlement. William Watt (a local landowner) discovers it when out walking on his land.
AD 1860s	Work takes place to excavate the site. Four houses are discovered at this time.
AD 1926	Another great storm reveals further houses within the Skara Brae settlement. Further excavation takes place at the site in the years that follow. The settlement is thought to have been inhabited by people from the Iron Age.
AD 1970s	Radiocarbon dating of artefacts from the site date Skara Brae as being a village from the Neolithic period of the Stone Age.
AD 1999	Skara Brae becomes a World Heritage Site.



Glossary

- ▶ **preserving** Keeping something in its original state.
- ▶ **excavate** To carefully remove items and look for buried artefacts.