

Art and Religious Ideas of the Stone Age (9 000 – 1 800 BC)

Early Metal Period (1 800 BC – 1st century AD)

The earliest examples of Stone Age art from the East Baltic include ornamented bone and antler implements. In the Neolithic, animal and human figurines were also made, as well as amber beads and pendants [21–23]*.

The Bronze Age (1 800–500 BC) witnessed the transition from an economy based on food procurement to one based on food production. Stock-keeping and agriculture became increasingly important [29]. Now, with stocks of food and material, residential sites had to be protected, and so the first hill-forts were built [31]. Although raw material for bronze production was not available in the region, people were familiar with the metal and knew how to work it. Objects of prestige were made of bronze however; bronze played only a minor economical role [32].

In the Earliest Iron Age (500 BC – 1st cent. BC), the first iron objects came into use [36]. With improved tools, agriculture gradually emerged as the dominant economic activity [37].

An important development in the Early Iron Age (1–400 AD) was the spread of knowledge about how to smelt and work iron [38].

* *The numbers in square brackets indicate the relevant showcases.*