

the earliest Europeans as scraggly, persistent foragers who hunkered down during the glacial age??

ARCHIVO ICONOGRAFICO, S.A./CORBIS (LEFT); MUSEUM OF NATIONAL ANTIQUITIES, ST. GERMAIN-DE-LAYE/RMN



**TO THE BONE** Information from ancient bones, like this skull, left, and children's skeletons, above, helped establish that modern Europeans appeared before the Ice Age

## MIDDLE STONE AGE

### Mesolithic

8000 to 3200 B.C.

■ 8000 to 7000 B.C.: Rising temperature and humidity lead to increased growth of plant life. Initial open forest changes to climax forest dominated by oak and elm

■ Large animals such as bison and mammoth disappear and reindeer

herds move northward in search of colder conditions

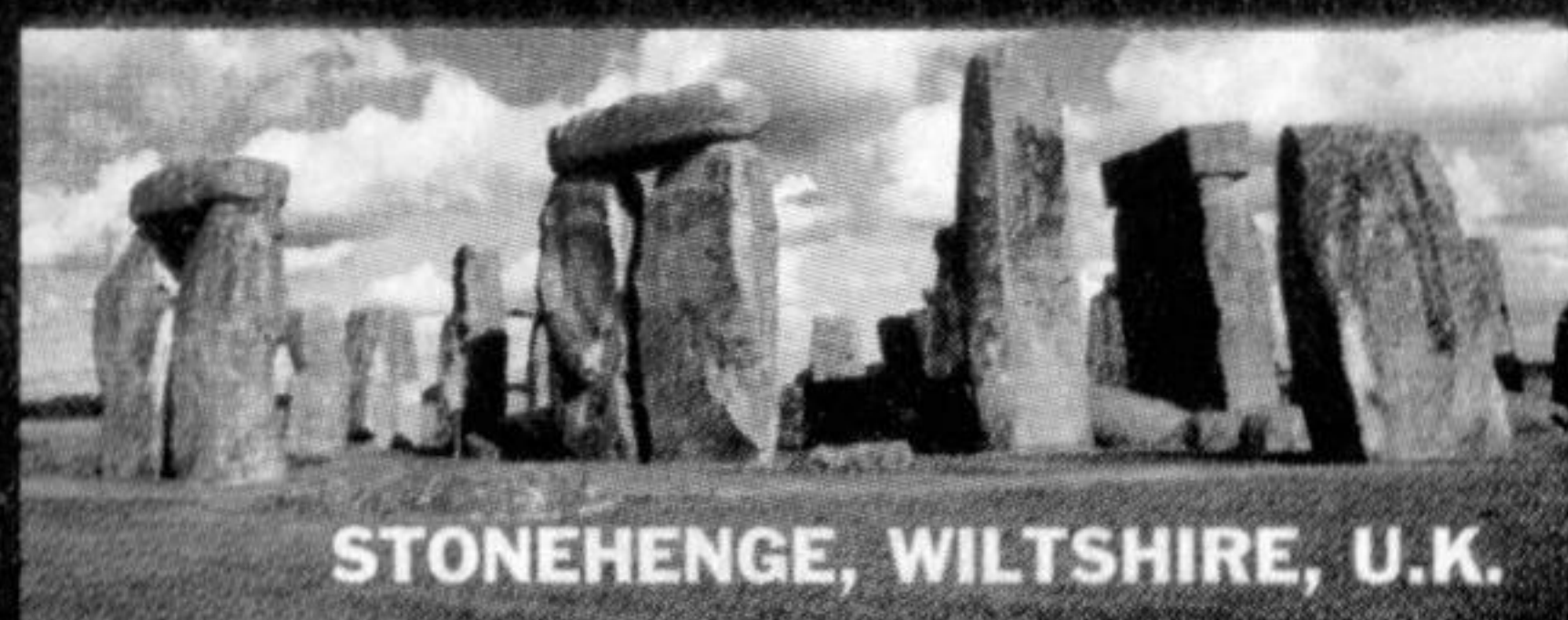
■ European forests dominated by smaller animals, such as wild cattle, pigs and deer

■ Evidence of use of hooks, nets, traps and canoes

## NEW STONE AGE

### Neolithic

6500 B.C. to 3200 B.C.



STONEHENGE, WILTSHIRE, U.K.

■ Circa 6500 B.C.: Migration of Neolithic populations to Europe from the Near East, theoretically bringing with them the revolutionary technology of farming. Descendants of these peoples make up between 10 and 20% of Europe's current population

■ Arrival of barley and domesticated wheat, pottery

■ Management of animal herds for purposes other than provision of meat, for manure, wool and traction

■ Use of plow and wheeled vehicles

## METAL AGES

### Recorded History

3200 B.C. to A.D.

■ 3200 to 700 B.C.: Bronze Age

■ 700 to 1 B.C.: Iron Age

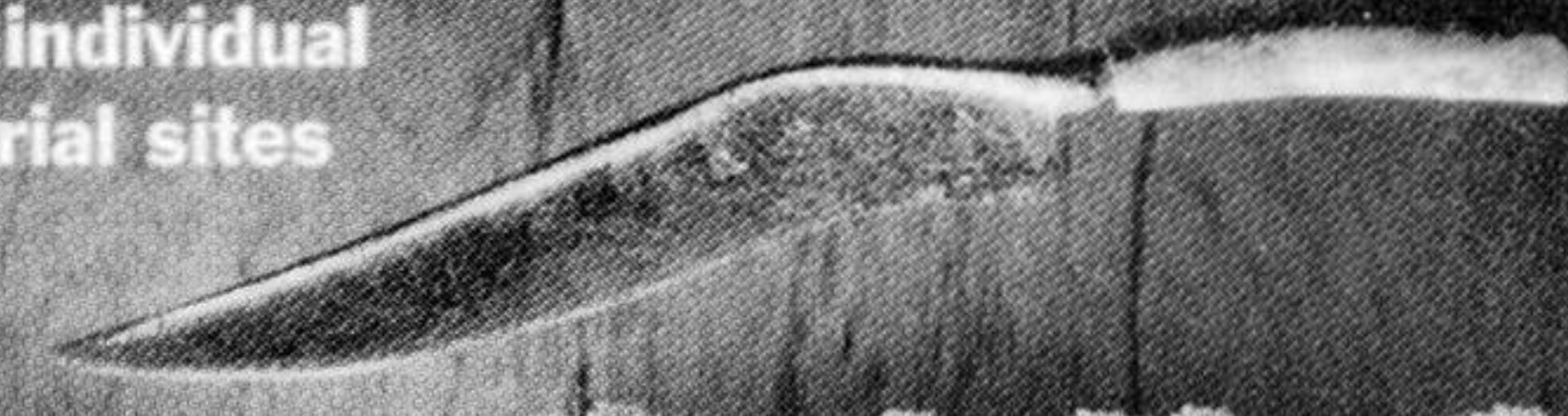
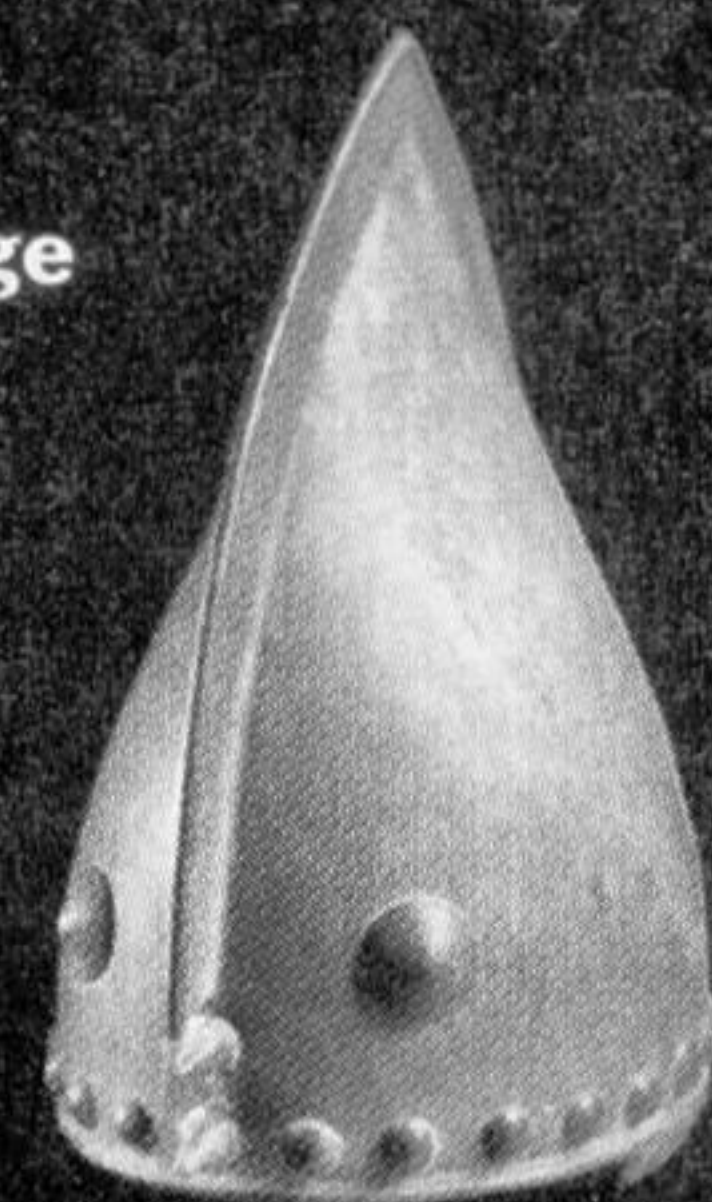
■ Use of metal for prestigious personal objects and weapons

■ Increase in exchange of prestige goods such as amber and copper

■ Emergence of fortified settlements and sites of central authority

■ Invention of sword and armor

■ Move from communal to individual burial sites



Agriculture

SHERIDAN—ANCIENT ART COLLECTION

JOHN NOBLE—CORBIS

GIANNI DAGLI ORTI—CORBIS; ARCHIVO ICONOGRAFICO, S.A./CORBIS