

Calling all budding young historians! Prepare for an exciting journey way back in time! We're off to a village built over **5,000 years ago!** Ready? Then check out our super-cool **Skara Brae facts...**

### What is Skara Brae?

Found on the **Orkney Islands**, north **Scotland**, Skara Brae is a one of Britain's most fascinating **prehistoric villages**. It was built between **3000BCE and 2500BCE**, during the 'New Stone Age'. In fact, the village is **older than the pyramids and Stonehenge!**

### Why is Skara Brae important?

Skara Brae is one of the best preserved **Stone Age settlements** anywhere in Western . The amazing artefacts discovered at this incredible site show us what life was like in Britain. We can learn how people built their homes, as well as the work they did, the tools they used, the food they ate and much, much more!

### Skara Brae houses

If you visit Skara Brae today, you'll see a collection of super-cool prehistoric, circular houses, built from slabs of stone. Supported by 2.4m walls, the houses consist of one single room, and are connected together by covered passageways.

Today, the homes are open to the air, but historians think they would once have had roofs made from turf, thatched seaweed or straw. And the really cool bit? Even the furniture has stood the test of time! Made from sturdy stone, the homes' beds, dressers, shelves and hearths (base of the fireplace) remain to this day.

### When was Skara Brae rediscovered?

For centuries, Skara Brae was covered by a huge sand dune. It remained hidden there until **a huge storm hit the island in 1850**, blowing away the sand, earth and plants., Then, in the 1860s, a team of archaeologists led by a man called **William Watt**, got to digging and uncovered four buildings. Years later in 1926, another storm hit the island, leading to further excavations which revealed more of Skara Brae.

### What happened to Skara Brae?

The settlement of Skara Brae was **abandoned around 2500BC** - but the reason why still remains a mystery! Skara Brae is a **World Heritage Site**. It attracts thousands of visitors every year. Come and visit it for yourself!