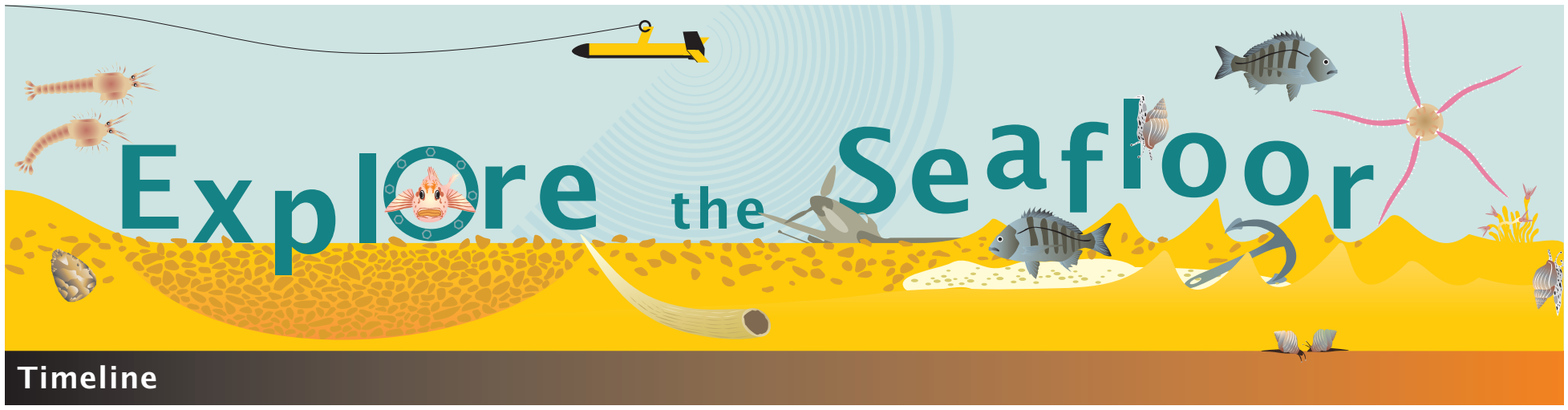

Timeline

Geological Period	Archaeological Period BP (Before Christ) / BC (Before Present)			Glacial Period		Relative Sea Level
Middle Pleistocene	Palaeolithic	Lower Palaeolithic 700,000 to 150,000 BP	*Homo heidelbergensis*, early humans making tools (handaxes, cores and flakes), using fire and hunting and butchering large animals.	Anglian glaciation (480,000 to 425,000 BP)	Ice extending south to London and Bristol.	**Low**
			Homo neanderthalensis, Neanderthal man, more sophisticated stone tools and the burial of dead.	Hoxnian interglacial (425,000 to 380,000 BP)	Climate warmer than Britain today.	**High**
				Wolstonian glaciation (380,000 to 130,000 BP)	Including increasing evidence for further glacial and interglacial phases.	**Low**
Late Pleistocene		Middle Palaeolithic 150,000 to 30,000 BP	Lack of evidence for human presence. Possibly higher sea levels caused Britain to become an island for the first time, and prevented early humans from reaching Britain.	Ipswichian interglacial (130,000 to 70,000 BP)	The “Last Interglacial”. Climate similar to Southern France/ Northern Spain 130,000 to 118,000 BP. Evidence for fluctuating warm/cold conditions 118,000 to 70,000 BP.	**High**
			England no longer an island, evidence for Neanderthal populations.	Devensian glaciation (70,000 to 12,000 BP)	Early Devensian, climate like that of modern Scandinavia.	**Low**
		Early Upper Palaeolithic 30,000 to 12,000 BP	*Homo sapiens*, modern humans, blade based stone tools. Neanderthals disappear *c.* 30,000 BP.			
			Human populations probably migrated to warmer conditions in France and Spain. Tundra environment populated by woolly rhino, mammoth and reindeer.		Glacial maximum 20,000 to 18,000 BP. Ice extending south to Norfolk, Wolverhampton and South Wales.	
			People, animals and plants repopulating Britain.		Ice sheets receding, climate becoming progressively warmer.	
		Late Upper Palaeolithic 12,000 to 10,500 BP (= 8,500 BC)	Extinction of megafauna species. Hunter-gatherers, occupation of caves, cave paintings and other evidence for ritual practices.	Flandrian interglacial (12,000 BP to present)	Climate *c.* 1 or 2˚C warmer and wetter than present. Thermal maximum *c.* 7,000 to 6,000 years ago.	**High**
Holocene	Mesolithic	8,500 to 4,000 BC	Hunter-gatherer, microlithic tool industry, forest clearances, occupation of open sites.			
	Neolithic	4,000 to 2,400 BC	Origins of farming, pottery manufacture, settled communities, major forest clearance, growing population, megalithic monuments.			
	Bronze Age	2,400 to 700 BC	Introduction of metalwork, increased social hierarchy and economic links with the continent, individual burial practices, megalithic monuments.		General cooling of climate *c.* 4,500 to 2,500 years ago.	
	Iron Age	700 BC to 43 AD	Development of iron weapons and tools, new agricultural practices and permanent settlement, defensive structures (hill forts).			
	Romano-British	43 AD to 410 AD	Part of the Roman Empire, diversification of economy and commerce, new developments in agriculture, urbanisation, industry, architecture and religion.		Moderate climate amelioration.	
	Early Medieval	410 to 1066 AD	Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. Arrival of Christianity.		Return to cooler climate.	
	Medieval	1066 to 1500 AD	Normans, Wars of the Roses, the Tudors (Henry VIII, dissolution of the monasteries).		Medieval optimum, climate warmer, similar to northern France.	
	Post-Medieval	1500 to 1800 AD	The Tudors (Elizabeth I), the Stuarts, English Civil War, the Restoration.		'Little Ice Age' 1450 to 1890AD (ice fairs held on the Thames).	
	Modern	1800 to Present Day	WWI and WWII.			