

Life in the Bronze Age: Ellie's Historical Discovery

Learning objective: To understand the changes in technology and daily life during the British Bronze Age.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Think about how the discovery of metal changed the way people lived compared to the Stone Age.

Ellie the elephant loves to use her incredible memory to travel back in time. She has been learning about the Bronze Age, which began in Britain around 2,500 BC. This was an exciting time because people discovered how to make bronze by mixing copper and tin. This new metal was much stronger than stone, which meant that farmers could make better tools like axes and sickles to help them grow more crops.

Life in the Bronze Age was very busy. People lived in roundhouses made of wood and wattle-and-daub, often gathered in small settlements. Because they had better tools, they could produce more food than they needed, which led to the start of trade. They exchanged goods like jewellery, pottery, and precious metals with people from far away. Ellie finds it fascinating that these people were also great engineers, building large hillforts to protect their communities. By the end of the Bronze Age, society had changed completely; people had become skilled craftsmen, traders, and farmers, laying the foundations for the life we recognise today.

Word bank: Bronze · Metallurgy · Alloy · Settlement · Hillfort · Trade · Craftsman

1. What two metals were mixed together to create bronze? (1 mark)

2. Name two types of tools that Bronze Age farmers used to improve their work. (2 marks)

3. Why did the ability to produce more food than they needed lead to the start of trade? (2 marks)

4. What does the construction of hillforts suggest about how people felt during this time? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the discovery of metal was the most important change in the Bronze Age? Give a reason for your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a Bronze Age roundhouse with a thatched roof, surrounded by a small farm with a metal axe and a decorated clay pot resting nearby.



Extension challenge: Research what 'wattle-and-daub' is. Write a short paragraph explaining how you think a Bronze Age person would build a wall using these materials.