

Discovering the Bronze Age with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the key changes in human life during the Bronze Age, including the invention of bronze tools and the development of trade.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of the Bronze Age to write your answers. Think about how life changed from the Neolithic period to the time when people discovered how to make metal.

Ellie the elephant has been looking through her history logs! During the Bronze Age, people discovered that by mixing copper and tin, they could create a much stronger metal called bronze. This changed how people farmed, fought, and built their homes. Because not every village had access to the metals needed, people began to travel further to swap goods, leading to the start of long-distance trade. Life became more organised, and we see the first signs of social status and hillforts appearing across the landscape.

Word bank: Bronze · Copper · Tin · Smelting · Trade · Hillfort · Beaker Folk · Settlement

1. Ellie wants to know how bronze was made. Which two metals did early people combine to create bronze? (2 marks)

2. Explain why the discovery of bronze was so important for farmers compared to using stone tools. (2 marks)

3. How did the need for copper and tin change the way people interacted with other villages or regions? (2 marks)

4. Name one type of structure that started to appear during the Bronze Age as communities became more organised. (1 mark)

5. If a farmer wanted to trade their grain for a bronze axe, what might they have used to measure the value of their goods before modern money existed? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a Bronze Age village scene. Include a roundhouse, a small metalworking furnace, and a trader carrying a bag of ore on a cart.



Extension challenge: Research the 'Beaker Folk' who arrived in Britain during the early Bronze Age. Write three sentences about why they were named after the pottery they left behind.