

The Bronze Age: An Investigation into Early Metalworking

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of life, technology, and society in Britain during the Bronze Age.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide clear and accurate answers. Ensure you use full sentences for the extended response questions.

During the Bronze Age, Britain saw significant changes in technology and daily life. People moved away from using stone tools and began to experiment with metals. By combining copper and tin, they created a stronger metal called bronze. This period also saw the development of more complex farming, new burial customs, and the arrival of the 'Beaker people', who are named after the distinctively shaped pottery they left behind.

Word bank: Bronze · Copper · Tin · Alloy · Beaker People · Hillfort · Roundhouse · Burial mounds · Trade · Agriculture

1. Identify the two metals that, when mixed together, create bronze. (2 marks)

2. Why were bronze tools considered an improvement over the stone tools used in the Neolithic period? (2 marks)

3. Ellie the Elephant is researching homes in the Bronze Age. Describe the typical structure of a Bronze Age roundhouse. (3 marks)

4. Explain how the introduction of metalworking influenced the way people traded goods across Britain and Europe. (4 marks)

5. Max the Monkey is looking at a map of burial sites. Describe how burial practices changed during the Bronze Age compared to earlier times. Include details about barrows or cists. (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing: Imagine you are living in a Bronze Age settlement. Write a diary entry explaining how your community uses bronze for farming, hunting, and decorating. Consider how these tools have changed the way your village survives compared to the lives of your ancestors. (5 marks)

7. If a farmer wanted to buy a new bronze sickle and it cost £4.50, but they only had £3.25, how much more money would they need to trade for it? (1 mark)

8. Name one type of evidence archaeologists use today to learn about the Bronze Age. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a bronze axe head or a typical Bronze Age roundhouse, labelling at least three key features.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Research task: Find out why the Bronze Age eventually ended and the Iron Age began. What new metal was discovered that changed everything?