

Discovering the Bronze Age with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the key characteristics of the Bronze Age in Britain and the shift from stone tools to metalworking.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Use full sentences where appropriate.

Ellie the elephant loves exploring history, especially the time when Britain entered the Bronze Age around 2500 BC. Before this period, people used stone tools, but they soon discovered that mixing two metals, copper and tin, created a much stronger, durable material called bronze. This discovery changed everything! Skilled metalworkers, known as smiths, used fire to melt the ores and cast them into moulds to create axes, swords, and beautiful jewellery. People began to live in more permanent circular houses made of wood and wattle-and-daub. Farming also improved; farmers used bronze sickles to harvest crops more efficiently. As communities grew, trading became essential because copper and tin were not found in every part of the country. People travelled across land and sea to swap goods, creating a network of connections. By the end of this era, the landscape of Britain had transformed, with hillforts appearing and social structures becoming more complex. Ellie reminds us that even though they lived thousands of years ago, these people were clever innovators who laid the foundations for our modern world.

Word bank: Bronze · Alloy · Smelting · Settlement · Copper · Tin

1. Which two metals must be mixed together to create bronze? (1 mark)

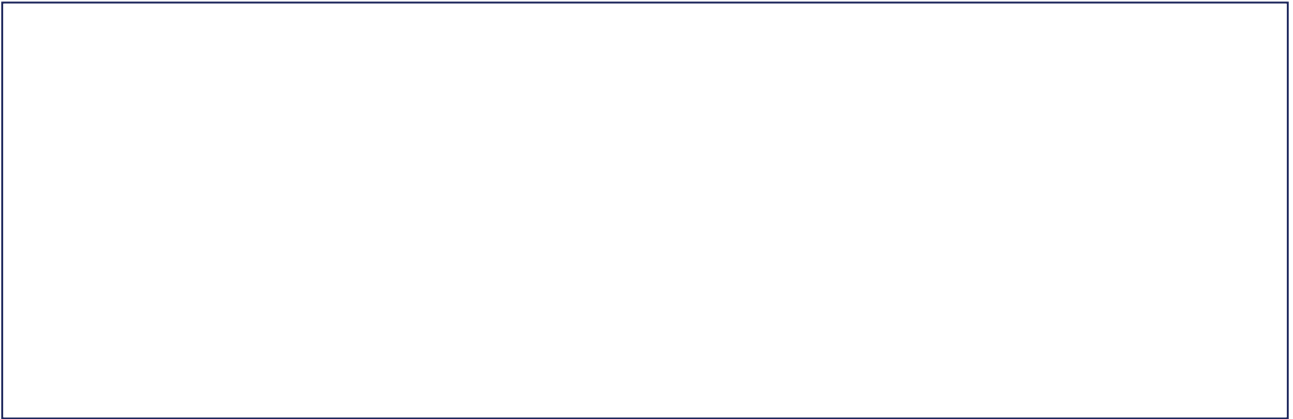
2. What were the houses in the Bronze Age typically built from? (1 mark)

3. Why did people in the Bronze Age need to trade with others? (2 marks)

4. How did the invention of bronze tools likely change the daily life of a farmer? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the move from stone tools to bronze tools was the most important change in this era? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene from a Bronze Age settlement. Include a circular house made of wattle-and-daub, a farmer using a bronze sickle, and a smith working by a small fire.



Extension challenge: Research what 'wattle-and-daub' means. Write a short paragraph explaining how you would build a house using these materials if you lived in the Bronze Age.