

Ellie's Bronze Age Invention Workshop

Learning objective: To understand the changes in technology, materials, and daily life during the British Bronze Age (c. 2500 BC – 800 BC).

Ellie the elephant has travelled back in time and found a collection of items from the Bronze Age. Read each 'clue' provided below. Decide if the item belongs to the Bronze Age or if it is a 'Modern Mystery' (something that does not belong). For the items that belong to the Bronze Age, explain how they changed the lives of the people living then.

Word bank: Bronze · Copper · Tin · Smelting · Beaker People · Hillforts · Roundhouses · Trade · Archaeology

1. Item: A sharp axe head made from a mixture of copper and tin. Is this from the Bronze Age? Explain how this discovery changed farming compared to the Stone Age. (2 marks)

2. Item: A plastic smartphone. Is this from the Bronze Age? Justify your answer using your knowledge of materials available during that period. (2 marks)

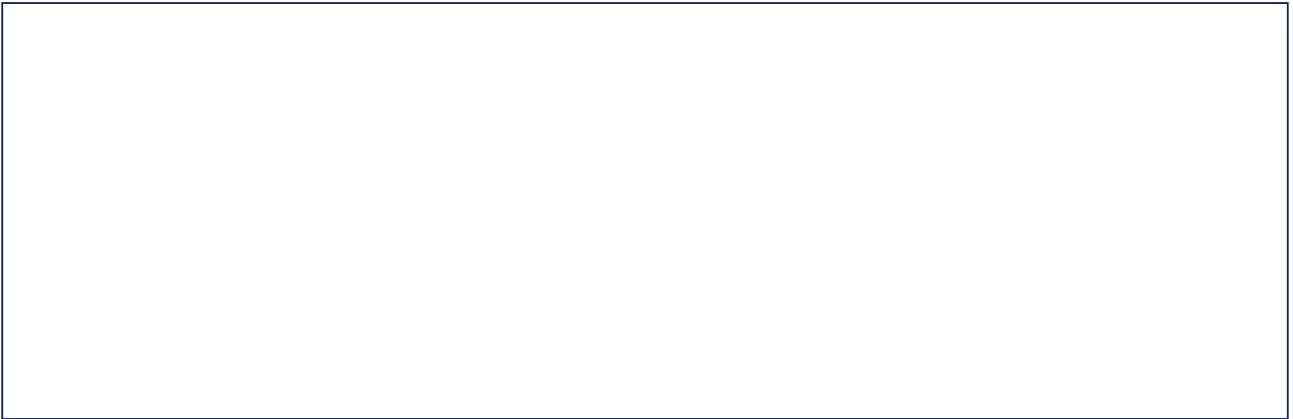
3. Item: A circular dwelling with a thatched roof and a central hearth. Compare and contrast this to where people might have lived in the earlier Neolithic period. (2 marks)

4. Item: A decorative gold neck ring (torc). Explain why the creation of such jewellery suggests that Bronze Age society was becoming more complex. (2 marks)

5. What might happen to a Bronze Age village if their supply of tin suddenly ran out? Formulate a theory based on the importance of trade. (2 marks)

6. Justify why historians call this period the 'Bronze Age' rather than the 'Copper Age', even though copper is a main ingredient. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene inside a Bronze Age roundhouse. Include a family sitting around a central hearth, a bronze tool resting on a wooden table, and a clay beaker on the floor.



Extension challenge: Write a short diary entry from the perspective of a Bronze Age metalworker. Describe the process of smelting ores in a furnace and explain why you feel proud of the new blade you have crafted for the village leader. Use at least four words from the word bank.