

Ellie's Bronze Age Explorer Journal

Learning objective: To analyse and evaluate the significant technological and social changes during the British Bronze Age.

Step into the shoes of an archaeologist with Ellie. Use this journal to record your discoveries about the Bronze Age. Fill in each section using your knowledge of how life changed from the Neolithic period to the time when metalworking arrived in Britain.

Word bank: alloy · copper · tin · bronze · smelting · settlement · beaker folk · hillfort · ritual · trade

1. The Discovery of Metal: Explain the process of smelting. Why was the invention of bronze a significant technological leap compared to using stone tools? (3 marks)

2. Daily Life: Compare and contrast life in a Bronze Age roundhouse with a modern home. What are the key similarities and differences in how families lived? (3 marks)

3. Economic Exchange: Justify why the development of trade routes across Britain and Europe was essential for Bronze Age communities to thrive. (4 marks)

4. Social Structure: What might happen to a community if they lacked access to tin? Explain the potential impact on their defence and agriculture. (3 marks)

5. Beliefs and Burials: Describe the purpose of burial mounds (barrows) and explain why these sites provide valuable evidence for historians today. (3 marks)

6. Critical Thinking: If you were living in 1500 BC, would you prefer to be a skilled metalworker or a farmer? Provide reasons for your choice based on the risks and rewards of each role. (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you have discovered a hoard of buried Bronze Age artefacts. Write a short field report (150 words) detailing what the items are, why they were buried, and what they reveal about the status of the person who owned them.