

Discovering the Bronze Age with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand how the discovery of bronze transformed life, trade, and technology during the British Bronze Age.

Use your historical knowledge of the Bronze Age to answer the questions below. Think about how tools, burial customs, and trade changed from the Neolithic period.

Ellie the Elephant has been busy reading about the period after the Stone Age. She has discovered that the Bronze Age began when people learned to mix copper and tin to create a new, stronger metal. This process, called smelting, changed everything from farming tools to jewellery. During this time, people began to live in more permanent settlements and trade goods across long distances. Burial customs also changed, with people often being buried in round barrows with special items like 'beaker' pottery.

Word bank: Bronze · Copper · Tin · Alloy · Beaker Folk · Hillforts · Trade · Smelting

1. Explain what an 'alloy' is and identify the two metals that were combined to create bronze. (2 marks)

2. Why was the discovery of bronze more useful for farmers than the stone tools used previously? (2 marks)

3. Ellie found a bronze axe head for sale at a historical market for £12.50. If a trader sold 4 of these axe heads, what was the total cost in pounds and pence? (2 marks)

4. Describe one change in burial customs that occurred during the Bronze Age compared to the earlier Neolithic period. (2 marks)

5. How did the need for tin and copper encourage people to travel and trade with other regions? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing a Bronze Age settlement. Include a roundhouse, a bronze smith working at a forge, and a trade scene showing someone exchanging goods for metal ingots.



Extension challenge: Research why the Bronze Age eventually came to an end. Write three sentences explaining what new metal replaced bronze and why it was considered an improvement.