

The Bronze Age Assessment: A Journey Through Time with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of life, technology, and societal changes during the British Bronze Age.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed answers. Ensure you use appropriate historical terminology.

Ellie the Elephant has been using her incredible memory to study the transition from the Neolithic period to the Bronze Age. She notes that around 2500 BC, new skills arrived in Britain. People discovered that by mixing copper and tin, they could create a much stronger metal: bronze. This discovery changed everything, from the tools farmers used to the weapons warriors carried, and even the jewellery worn by the wealthy.

Word bank: Bronze · Copper · Tin · Smelting · Beaker People · Roundhouse · Hillfort · Trade · Burial Mound · Skara Brae

1. Identify the two metals that are combined to create bronze. Why was this innovation more useful than using stone tools? (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. Describe the typical design and materials used to build a Bronze Age roundhouse. (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. What does the presence of gold and bronze items in burial mounds tell us about the social structure of Bronze Age communities? (3 marks) (3 marks)

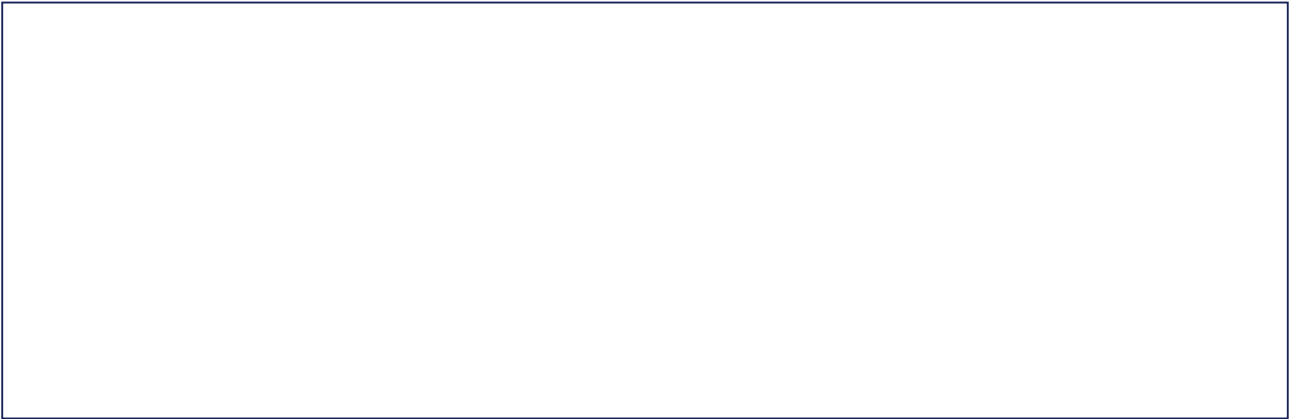
4. Explain why the development of trade routes across Europe was essential for the advancement of Bronze Age Britain. (3 marks) (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the farming techniques of the Neolithic period with the advancements made during the Bronze Age. (4 marks) (4 marks)

6. Justify your answer: Do you believe the discovery of bronze was the most important turning point in British prehistory? Support your opinion with two historical reasons. (4 marks) (4 marks)

7. Imagine you are an archaeologist uncovering a Bronze Age site. Write a formal report (5 marks) describing the artefacts found and what they reveal about the daily life and status of the person buried there. (5 marks)

Draw: Sketch a diagram of a Bronze Age roundhouse, clearly labelling the materials used for the walls and the roof.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Consider this: What might have happened to the social structure of Bronze Age tribes if the supply of tin had suddenly run out? Write a short paragraph explaining the potential consequences for trade and power.