

Uncovering the Bronze Age with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the transition from the Stone Age to the Bronze Age and the impact of metalworking on daily life in Britain.

Read the questions carefully and use your historical knowledge to answer. Think about how the discovery of new materials changed the way people lived, farmed, and travelled.

Ellie the elephant has been digging through the archives of history! She has discovered that around 2,500 BC, people in Britain began to move from using stone tools to using metal. By mixing copper and tin, they created a strong, durable metal called bronze. This discovery changed everything, from how they harvested crops to how they defended their homes.

Word bank: Bronze · Copper · Tin · Alloy · Smelting · Settlements · Trade · Craftsmanship · Hillforts

1. Ellie explains that bronze is an 'alloy'. Based on your knowledge of the Bronze Age, define what an alloy is and name the two metals used to create it. (2 marks)

2. Why was the shift from stone tools to bronze tools considered a significant technological advancement for Bronze Age farmers? (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the life of a person in the Neolithic (late Stone Age) period with someone living in the Bronze Age. Identify one major difference in their daily activities. (2 marks)

4. Explain why the need for copper and tin led to the development of early trade networks across Britain and Europe. (2 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Do you think the invention of bronze made society more peaceful or more competitive? Support your argument with a reason. (3 marks)

6. What might happen to a Bronze Age settlement if their supply of tin suddenly ran out? Consider the impact on both tools and social status. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of a Bronze Age metalworker in their workshop. Include a furnace for smelting, a stone mould for casting a bronze axe head, and the finished tools hanging on the wall.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a trader in the Bronze Age. Write a short diary entry (50-70 words) describing the goods you are transporting across the country and the difficulties you face while traveling to reach a distant settlement.