

Life in the Bronze Age with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand how life changed for people in Britain during the Bronze Age.

Read the story about Ellie the Elephant's visit to the past. Use the word bank to help you understand the new words. Write your answers in the boxes provided.

Ellie the Elephant loves to visit the past. Today, she is visiting a Bronze Age settlement. The people here have stopped using stone tools. Now, they use a new, strong metal called bronze. Ellie watches a craftsperson heating metal in a hot fire to make a sharp axe. The people live in round houses with thatched roofs made of straw. Outside, they grow wheat and keep sheep for wool. Ellie notices that the villagers are very busy. They are meeting people from other lands to trade goods. A trader gives the villagers shiny tin in exchange for their wool. Because the people have better tools, they can farm the land more easily. They also make beautiful jewellery out of gold and bronze. Life is changing quickly. The village is growing, and everyone has a special job to do. Ellie smiles as she watches them work together to build a better life.

Word bank: Bronze: A strong metal made by mixing copper and tin. · Settlement: A place where people build homes and live. · Craftspeople: People who make things like pots, tools, or jewellery. · Trade: Swapping items you have for items you need.

1. What material did people use to make tools before they used bronze? (2 marks)

2. Name two things the villagers grew or kept on their farm. (2 marks)

3. Why was the new metal, bronze, better for the people? (2 marks)

4. Why do you think the people in the village had to trade with others? (2 marks)

5. If you lived in the Bronze Age, which job would you want to do: a farmer or a craftsperson? Give one reason why. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a Bronze Age round house with a straw roof. Add a field of wheat next to it.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a trader in the Bronze Age. Write a short list of three items you might want to swap with a neighbouring village.