

History Assessment: The Bronze Age in Britain

Learning objective: To evaluate understanding of the technological, social, and cultural advancements during the British Bronze Age.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed answers. Ensure you use specific terminology where appropriate. Write clearly and check your spelling.

The transition from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age in Britain occurred around 2500 BC. This era was defined by the discovery that melting copper and tin together created a stronger, more durable metal: bronze. This technological shift influenced everything from farming tools and weaponry to personal jewellery. Society became increasingly hierarchical, and burial practices evolved from communal long barrows to individual burials under burial mounds known as round barrows.

Word bank: metallurgy · alloy · copper · tin · roundhouse · beaker folk · cremation · monument · subsistence · trade

1. Identify the two metals used to create bronze. Why was bronze an improvement over the materials used in the Stone Age? (2 marks)

2. Describe the typical living quarters of a Bronze Age family. What materials were used to construct them? (2 marks)

3. Ellie the elephant explains that burial customs changed significantly during this time. Compare and contrast Neolithic communal burials with Bronze Age 'round barrow' burials. (3 marks)

4. Explain why the development of metalworking led to an increase in trade across Britain and Europe. (3 marks)

5. Max the monkey has found a hoard of bronze axe heads. How might the ownership of such items have changed the structure of Bronze Age society? Use the term 'social hierarchy' in your answer. (4 marks)

6. Justify why historians classify the Bronze Age as a 'revolution' rather than just a simple change in tools. (3 marks)

7. Extended Writing Task: Imagine you are living in a Bronze Age settlement. Write a diary entry describing a day in your life. Include references to your daily chores, the importance of your metal tools, and the influence of the changing seasons on your food supply. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of a Bronze Age roundhouse, showing the central hearth and the materials used for the walls and roof.



Extension challenge: Consider the following: What might have happened to society if tin had not been available to trade? How does the presence of 'grave goods' in barrows help archaeologists understand the religious beliefs of the time? Total: /25