

Uncovering the Bronze Age: A Historical Quest with Ellie

Learning objective: To identify key characteristics, technological advancements, and social changes of the Bronze Age in Britain.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of the Bronze Age. Read the term or question on the left, then check the answer on the right. Ellie the elephant wants you to think deeply about how these changes shaped human history!

What is bronze?

An alloy made by mixing copper and tin, which is much stronger than stone or pure copper.

What is the process of smelting?

The method of extracting metal from ore by heating it to very high temperatures in a furnace.

Who were the 'Beaker People'?

A group of settlers who arrived in Britain around 2500 BC, named after the distinctive bell-shaped pottery cups they left in graves.

What are barrows?

Large, man-made mounds of earth or stone built over graves to bury important people or ancestors.

How did trade change during the Bronze Age?

People began travelling long distances across land and sea to exchange metal ores, salt, and luxury goods, creating complex networks.

What was the purpose of a hillfort?

A fortified settlement built on high ground, likely used for protection, controlling territory, and as a centre for trade or community life.

How did farming practices improve in the Bronze Age?

The invention of the ard (a simple wooden plough) allowed farmers to cultivate larger areas of land more efficiently.

What does 'social hierarchy' mean in a Bronze Age context?

It describes how society became more organised, with some individuals or families gaining more power, wealth, and status than others.

Why was the discovery of bronze so significant?

It allowed for the creation of more durable tools, weapons, and jewellery, which increased agricultural productivity and changed warfare.

What are hoards?

Collections of valuable metal items, such as axe heads or swords, that were often buried in the ground, possibly as offerings to gods or to keep them safe.