

The Dawn of Metal: Discovering the Bronze Age

Step into the past with Ellie the Elephant and uncover the secrets of the Bronze Age!

- The Bronze Age began in Britain around 2,500 BC, marking a transition away from the Neolithic period where stone tools were the primary technology.
- Bronze is an alloy, which means it is a mixture of two or more metals. It is much harder and more durable than pure copper.
- During this era, society became more organised. People began living in roundhouses and building massive earthworks, such as the early stages of hillforts for protection.
- Trade networks expanded significantly across Europe, as tin and copper were not always found in the same locations, requiring people to travel long distances.
- Burial practices changed during the Bronze Age, with many people being buried in 'round barrows' alongside precious grave goods like gold jewellery and bronze daggers.

Did you know? Did you know? Bronze was created by mixing two metals together: copper and tin! By heating these metals until they melted, ancient craftspeople could pour the liquid into stone moulds to create strong, shiny tools and weapons. This clever invention was a massive upgrade from the flint tools used by their ancestors!

Key vocabulary: Bronze · Metallurgy · Alloy · Copper · Tin · Settlement · Beaker Folk · Hillfort