

Ellie's Bronze Age Explorer Fact-File

Learning objective: To analyse the social, technological, and cultural advancements during the British Bronze Age (c. 2500 BC – 800 BC).

Use your knowledge of the Bronze Age to complete this fact-file. Ellie the elephant has provided the categories to help you structure your historical research. Ensure you use specific vocabulary to describe how life in Britain changed during this period.

Word bank: metallurgy · alloy · smelting · Beaker culture · settlement · trade networks · tumulus · bronze · tin · copper · fortified · ritual

1. The Metallurgy Revolution: Explain the process of creating bronze and justify why this alloy was a significant improvement over stone tools. (3 marks)

2. Social Hierarchy: Compare and contrast the lives of ordinary farmers with those of the elite individuals buried in elaborate barrows. (4 marks)

3. Trade and Connectivity: What might happen to the development of Bronze Age communities if they had not established long-distance trade networks for tin and copper? (3 marks)

4. Settlement Patterns: Describe the typical layout of a Bronze Age roundhouse and explain why these dwellings were suited to the British climate. (2 marks)

5. Ritual and Belief: Justify why historians believe that Bronze Age people held complex religious or spiritual beliefs based on the archaeological evidence found in burial sites. (3 marks)

6. Technological Transition: Explain why the shift from the Neolithic period to the Bronze Age is often considered one of the most important turning points in British prehistory. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an archaeologist who has just discovered a Bronze Age site. Write a formal field report (150 words) describing the items found and explaining what they reveal about the daily life and status of the person who lived there.