

The Bronze Age: Innovations and Society

Learning objective: To analyse the technological advancements of the Bronze Age and explain how the transition from stone to metal tools transformed daily life in Britain.

Read each question carefully and provide detailed, evidence-based answers. Use the word bank to support your explanations.

Ellie the elephant has been digging through the archives of history! She has discovered that around 2500 BC, people in Britain began to move away from using stone tools. They discovered that by heating copper and tin together, they could create a much stronger material: bronze. This technological leap changed how people lived, worked, and interacted with their neighbours across the sea.

Word bank: Alloy · Copper · Tin · Smelting · Settlement · Hierarchy · Bronze · Trade

1. Define the term 'alloy' and explain why bronze was considered a superior material compared to the stone tools used in the Neolithic period. (2 marks)

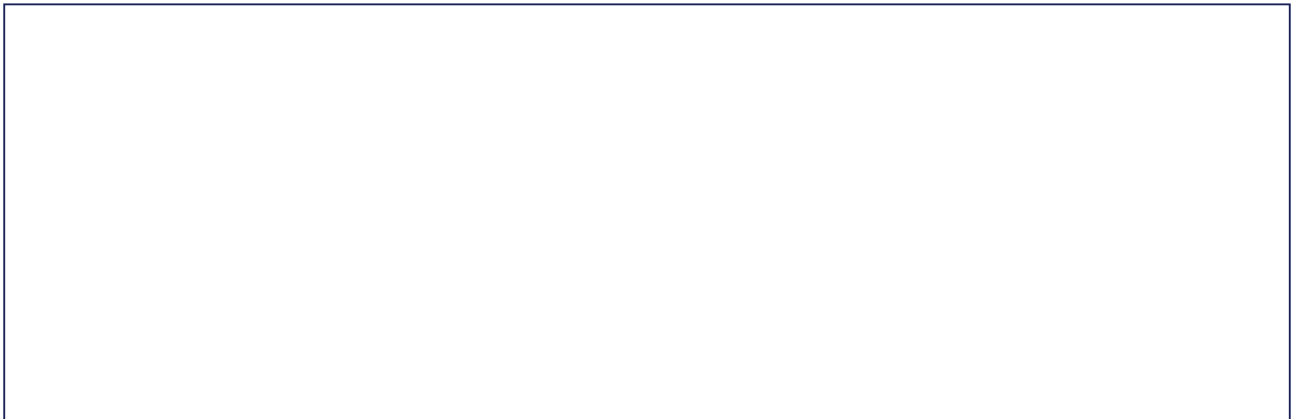
2. The discovery of bronze required access to two different metals. Why did this necessity lead to the growth of long-distance trade networks? (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the lifestyle of a farmer in the early Bronze Age to one in the Neolithic period. What might have changed regarding their tools and daily tasks? (3 marks)

4. Explain why the ability to create bronze items might have led to the development of a social hierarchy within Bronze Age settlements. (3 marks)

5. Justify your answer: If the Bronze Age people had not discovered how to smelt metals, how might their ability to build permanent, complex settlements have been hindered? (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene showing a Bronze Age settlement. Include a central roundhouse, a craftsman using a furnace for smelting, and a group of people trading goods. Label the items made of bronze.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an archaeologist who has just discovered a Bronze Age burial mound containing a decorative bronze dagger and some pottery. Write a short diary entry from the perspective of the person who owned these items, explaining what they are used for and why they are valuable to your community.