

Uncovering the Bronze Age with Ellie

Learning objective: To write a structured historical report exploring the technological and social changes during the British Bronze Age.

Use this writing scaffold to organise your report. Ellie the Elephant has provided these prompts to help you structure your research on how life changed from the Neolithic period to the Bronze Age.

The arrival of metalworking in Britain marked a transformative era, shifting society from the simplicity of stone tools to the complex capabilities of bronze.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · in contrast · metallurgy · significant · archaeological evidence · transition · societal structure · innovative

1. Introduction: Define the Bronze Age timeframe and explain why this period is considered a 'technological revolution'... (2 marks)

2. The Process of Metallurgy: Describe how bronze was created and explain why the discovery of smelting copper and tin was a significant turning point... (3 marks)

3. Societal Changes: Compare and contrast how the discovery of metal influenced trade, wealth, and hierarchy within Bronze Age settlements... (3 marks)

4. Burial Customs and Beliefs: Justify why archaeologists believe that Bronze Age people had complex religious beliefs based on evidence found in round barrows... (3 marks)

5. Daily Life: What might happen if a settlement failed to secure a supply of tin or copper? Explain the potential impact on their farming and defence... (3 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise the legacy of the Bronze Age and explain why this era was essential for the progress of human civilisation... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an archaeologist who has just discovered a Bronze Age hoard. Write a diary entry detailing the items found, their potential function, and what these specific objects reveal about the status of the person who owned them.