Uncovering the Bronze Age with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand the changes in technology, trade, and society that defined the Bronze Age in Britain.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of the Bronze Age to write detailed answers. Ellie the Elephant has remembered some important facts to help you!

Ellie the Elephant, our history expert, has been looking at how life changed after the Stone Age. Bronze is a metal made by mixing two other metals together. This new technology changed how people lived, worked, and built their homes across Britain.

Word bank: Alloy · Copper · Tin · Settlement · Hillfort · Trade · Burial · Beaker folk

1. Explain how bronze is created. Name the two metals that prehistoric people had to combine to make this new, stronger material. (2 marks)

2. Why was the discovery of bronze so important for farmers and warriors? Give two examples of objects that were made using this new technology. (2 marks)

3. During the Bronze Age, people began to live in more permanent roundhouses. Describe one feature of a typical Bronze Age roundhouse. (1 mark)

4. Bronze was not found everywhere in Britain. How did the need for materials like tin and copper lead to the development of trade networks? (2 marks)

5. Archaeologists often find 'Beaker' pottery in burial sites. What does this suggest about Bronze Age beliefs regarding the afterlife? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a Bronze Age roundhouse. Label the materials used to build the walls and the roof, and include a simple sketch of a bronze tool found inside.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a Bronze Age trader. Write a short diary entry (50-70 words) about a journey you took to exchange your wool and grain for a new bronze axe-head.