Social Studies / History Assessment: The Bronze Age in Britain

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of technological, social, and cultural changes during the British Bronze Age.

Read each question carefully before writing your answer. Ensure you use historical vocabulary where appropriate. Show your working for any calculations involving trade values.

Ellie the elephant has been studying the transition from the Neolithic period to the Bronze Age. She notes that around 2300 BCE, people in Britain began to master the art of combining copper and tin to create bronze. This new, stronger metal changed farming, weaponry, and jewellery making forever. Trade flourished as tribes exchanged goods like salt, gold, and wool across long distances, and the landscape became dotted with round barrows and hillforts.

Word bank: metallurgy · alloy · copper · tin · burial mounds · trade routes · social hierarchy · beaker folk

1. Identify the two metals that were combined to create the alloy known as bronze. (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. Max the monkey is calculating the value of trade. If a trader swaps 3 bags of tin for 5 bags of copper, and each bag is worth £12, what is the total value of the goods being traded in pounds? (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Explain one way in which the invention of bronze tools improved the daily lives of farmers in the Bronze Age. (3 marks) (3 marks)

4. Describe the purpose of burial mounds (round barrows) and what they tell historians about Bronze Age society. (4 marks) (4 marks)

5. How did the development of long-distance trade routes change the way Bronze Age communities interacted with one another? (4 marks) (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing: Compare life in the Neolithic period to life in the Bronze Age. Consider technology, housing, and social structure. Why was the Bronze Age considered a 'revolution' in human history? (5 marks) (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of a Bronze Age round barrow, showing the burial chamber inside and the mound on the outside.

Extension challenge: Research a 'hoard' of Bronze Age items found in Britain. Write a short paragraph explaining why people might have buried these precious items in the ground. Total: /25