Life in the Bronze Age

Learning objective: To understand the features of a Bronze Age settlement and the technological advancements in metalwork.

Use the drawing prompt to illustrate a Bronze Age settlement. Once your drawing is complete, use the word bank to label the key features of your scene.

Draw: Create a detailed scene of a Bronze Age settlement. Style: Technical illustration. Include: A large circular roundhouse with a conical thatch roof, made from wattle and daub (woven sticks covered in mud). In the foreground, draw a craftsperson working at a small stone hearth, heating metal in a crucible to pour into a mould. Surround the village with an earthwork mound or ditch for protection. Add a landscape with rolling hills and a small field of crops nearby.

Label words: Roundhouse · Thatch roof · Bronze axe · Smelting hearth · Wattle and daub walls · Hillfort ramparts

Steps:

1. Ellie the Elephant is researching how Bronze Age people made tools. Explain how a copper and tin mixture created a stronger material than stone.
2. Label the materials used to construct a typical Bronze Age roundhouse in your drawing.

3. Why did many Bronze Age settlements choose to build on high ground or inside ramparts?

4. Look at your drawing of the hearth. What was the main purpose of this area in the settlement?

5. List two items, other than axes, that a Bronze Age craftsperson might have produced using metalworking skills.