Ellie’s Bronze Age Trade Trail

Learning objective: To understand how trade networks and the discovery of bronze transformed life in Britain during the Bronze Age.

Ellie the elephant is helping an ancient trader move goods across the country. Sort the items below into their correct categories: 'Raw Materials' (things found or mined) and 'Crafted Goods' (things made by skilled workers). Then, answer the questions to help Ellie understand the importance of this era.

Word bank: Copper ore · Bronze dagger · Tin · Gold jewellery · Woollen cloth · Stone axe · Bronze axe head · Pottery beaker

1. Using your word bank, list the four items that would be classified as 'Crafted Goods'. Explain why these items required more 'specialised' skill to create than a simple stone tool. (4 marks)

2. Bronze is an alloy. Using your knowledge of history, name the two metals that must be melted together to create bronze. (2 marks)

3. If a trader sold a bronze dagger for £12.50 and a gold necklace for £35.75, what was the total cost of these two items? (2 marks)

4. Why was the discovery of bronze considered a 'technological revolution' compared to the previous Stone Age? (3 marks)

5. Trade routes often connected distant parts of Britain. Why do you think people in the Bronze Age were willing to travel such long distances to trade their goods? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of a Bronze Age settlement. Include a roundhouse, a small campfire where a blacksmith is working, and a group of traders arriving with goods to swap.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a trader in 1500 BC. Write a short diary entry (50-80 words) describing the journey you took to trade your copper for tin, and mention one challenge you faced along the way.