

The Bronze Age

The Bronze Age was a significant period in human history, beginning around 3,000 BC in the Middle East and reaching Britain around 2,500 BC. It followed the Stone Age, a time when early humans relied entirely on stone to craft their tools and weapons.

The great leap forward came when people discovered that melting copper and tin together produced a new metal — bronze — that was considerably harder and more durable than stone. This discovery transformed everyday life. Farmers were able to use better-quality tools to plough land and harvest crops more productively. Warriors equipped themselves with stronger bronze swords, spears, and shields. Skilled craftspeople created intricate jewellery, decorative objects, and ceremonial items from bronze.

Society became more organised during this period. People lived in permanent settlements and developed trade networks, exchanging goods such as metals, pottery, cloth, and food across surprisingly large distances. This helped ideas and skills spread between communities.

In Britain, well-known ancient sites such as Stonehenge were actively used during the Bronze Age for ceremonies and gatherings. People also began burying their dead with valuable objects, which tells us they believed in an afterlife.

The Bronze Age ended when people learned to make iron, which was even stronger than bronze, leading to the next great period — the Iron Age.

Questions

1. Where did the Bronze Age begin?
2. When did the Bronze Age reach Britain?
3. What period came before the Bronze Age?
4. What two metals are combined to make bronze?
5. How did better tools help farmers?
6. Name two weapons that warriors made from bronze.
7. What kind of objects did craftspeople create from bronze?
8. What goods were traded across long distances during the Bronze Age?
9. What does the practice of burying the dead with valuable objects suggest about Bronze Age beliefs?
10. What does the spread of ideas and skills between communities through trade tell us about Bronze Age people?



Text C Quiz



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