

The Beaker People

About 4,500 years ago, a new group of people began arriving in Britain. Historians and archaeologists call them the Beaker People. They originally came from central Europe, spreading gradually across the continent before reaching Britain.

Their name comes from the distinctive pottery they made — bell-shaped drinking cups known as beakers. These were often beautifully decorated with patterns pressed into the clay before it was fired.

The Beaker People brought important new skills with them. They knew how to work with metal, particularly bronze, which is made by mixing copper and tin. From bronze they crafted tools, weapons such as daggers and arrowheads, and jewellery. This skill with metal made them very powerful compared to people who only had stone tools.

They were also farmers who grew grain and raised cattle and sheep. When they buried their dead, they placed a beaker alongside the body, along with weapons or jewellery. These burial sites have given archaeologists a huge amount of information about how the Beaker People lived.

Questions

1. How long ago did the Beaker People arrive in Britain?
2. What do we call the scientists who study ancient people and their remains?
3. Where did the Beaker People originally come from?
4. What shape were the beakers they made?
5. How were the beakers decorated?
6. What two metals are mixed together to make bronze?
7. Name two types of weapon the Beaker People made from bronze.
8. Name two animals the Beaker People kept on their farms.
9. What objects were placed in graves alongside the body?
10. Why do you think archaeologists find burial sites so useful when learning about the Beaker People?



Text B Quiz



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