



Learning Question:

How can we find out about how people lived in the Bronze Age.

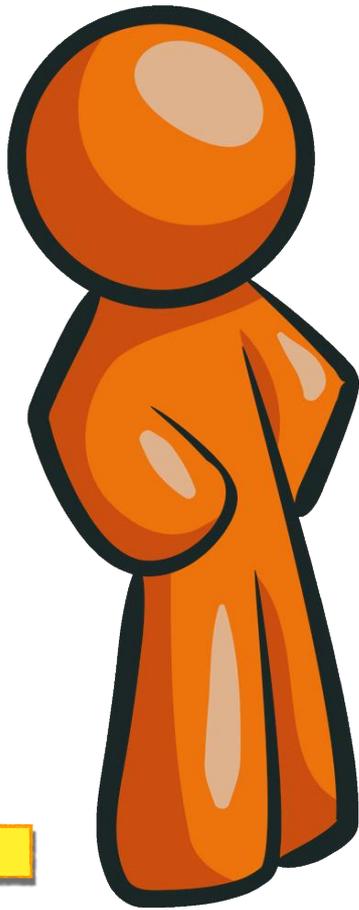
Success Criteria:

Describe how the Bronze age moved through Europe.

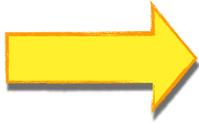
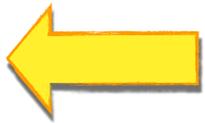
Discuss the reasons for becoming stationary.

Understand how a sword is made and the processes involved.

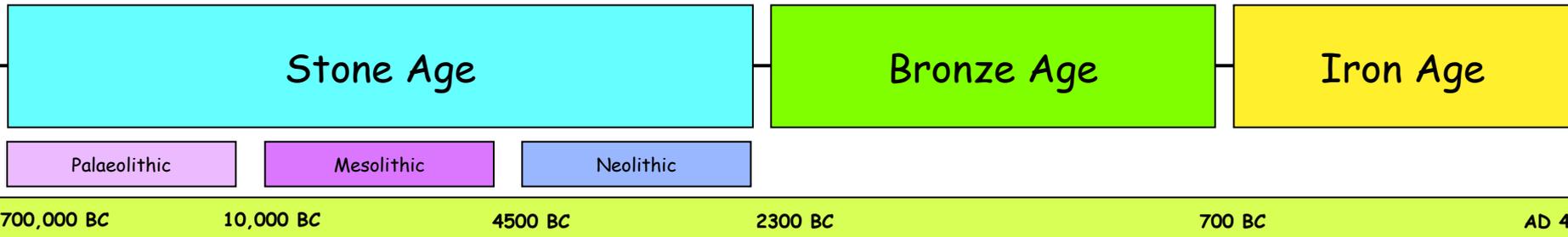
Vocabulary



Prehistory is split into three ages, the earliest of which was the Stone Age. Which age came after this?

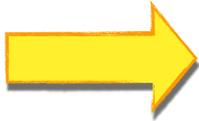


Prehistory Timeline



Today we are going to be looking at what life was like in Britain during the Bronze Age.

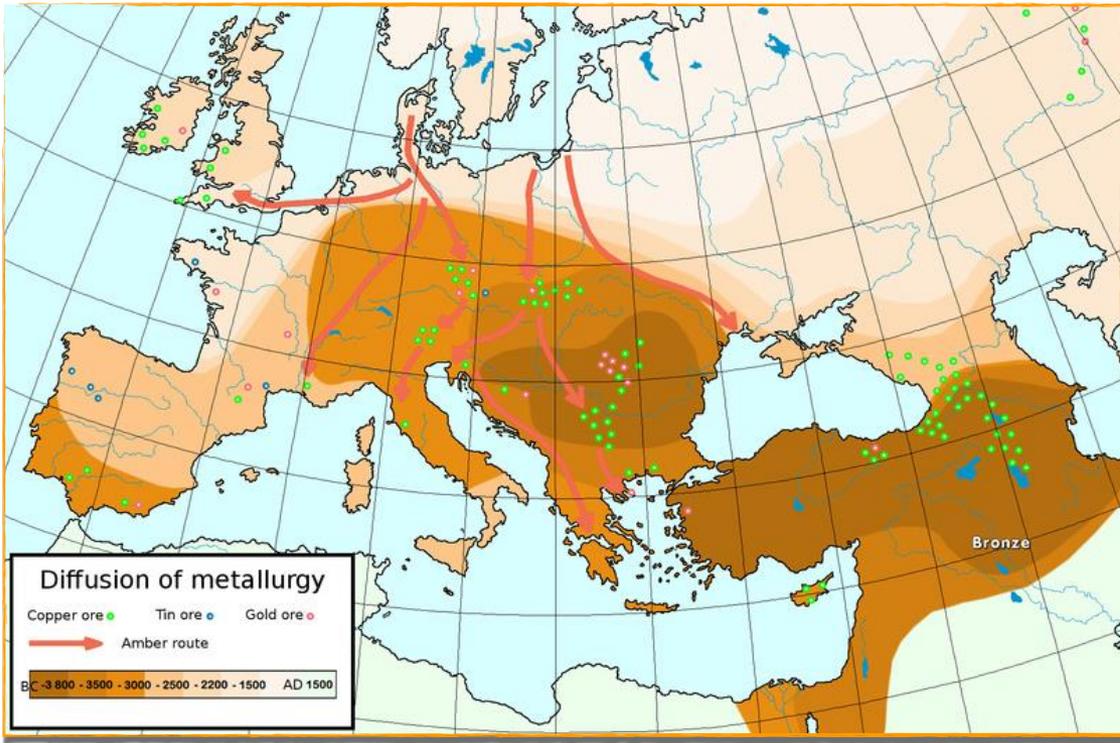
How do you think life might have developed from the Stone Age to the Bronze Age?



As the name suggests, the Bronze Age was when people first worked out how to make bronze. Bronze is made up of at least two metals, usually copper and tin. The invention of bronze was important because it allowed people to make certain objects in a way that was much better than how they been made previously.

Objects such as weapons, armour, tools and building materials could now be made from bronze which made them stronger and more durable than before.





This map shows how the use of bronze spread across Europe.



Bronze was first made in the Near East and spread westwards quite slowly. The darkest brown areas show bronze-making areas by about 3800 BC. The light brown in Britain shows that it didn't get there until

2500 - 2200 BC.

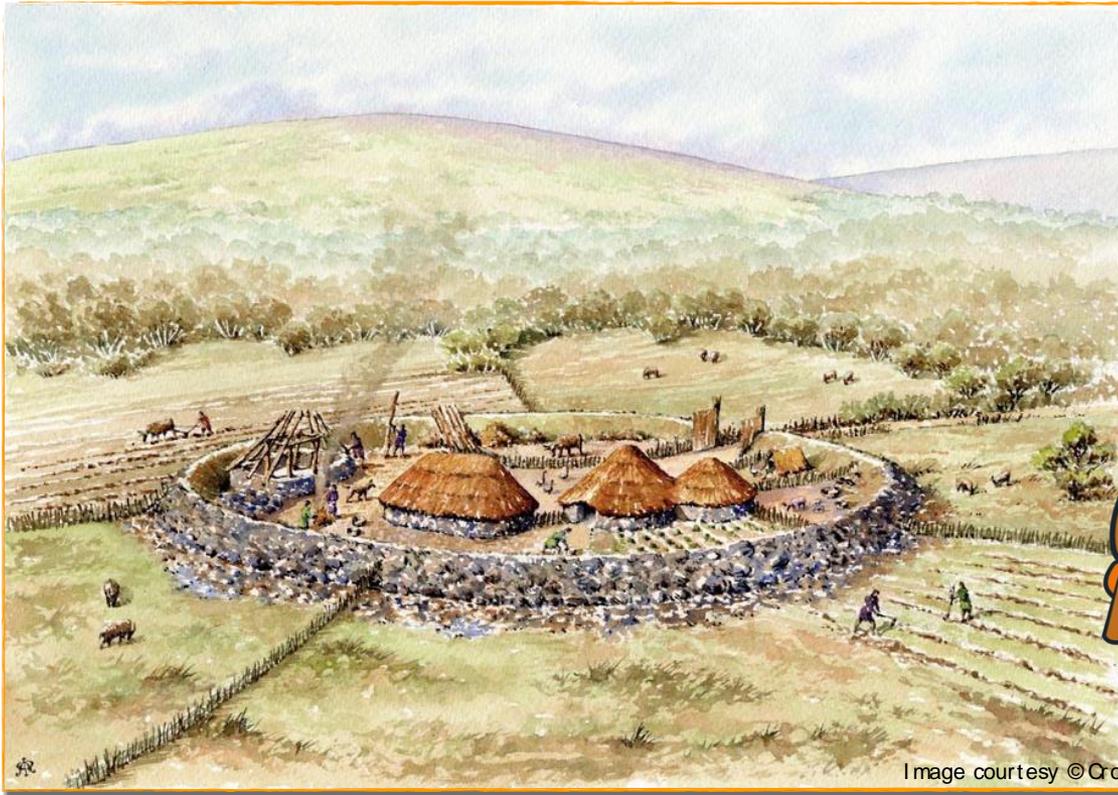


The copper and tin that bronze are made from have to be extracted from metal ore, which looks like stone. The stones are crushed and then heated to very high temperatures. This makes the copper and tin melt. When the two are mixed together as liquids, they can be poured into moulds to make objects.



Image attribution: Takkk http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:3ABon_bronze_-_Bronze_casts.jpg

It was also during the Bronze Age that people in Britain started to live in permanent settlements. They farmed the land and reared animals for meat and other products.



What can you see in this picture?

Image courtesy © Crown NIEA

People in the Bronze Age tended not to build large community monuments. Instead they created small monuments called round barrows or cairns to bury their dead.

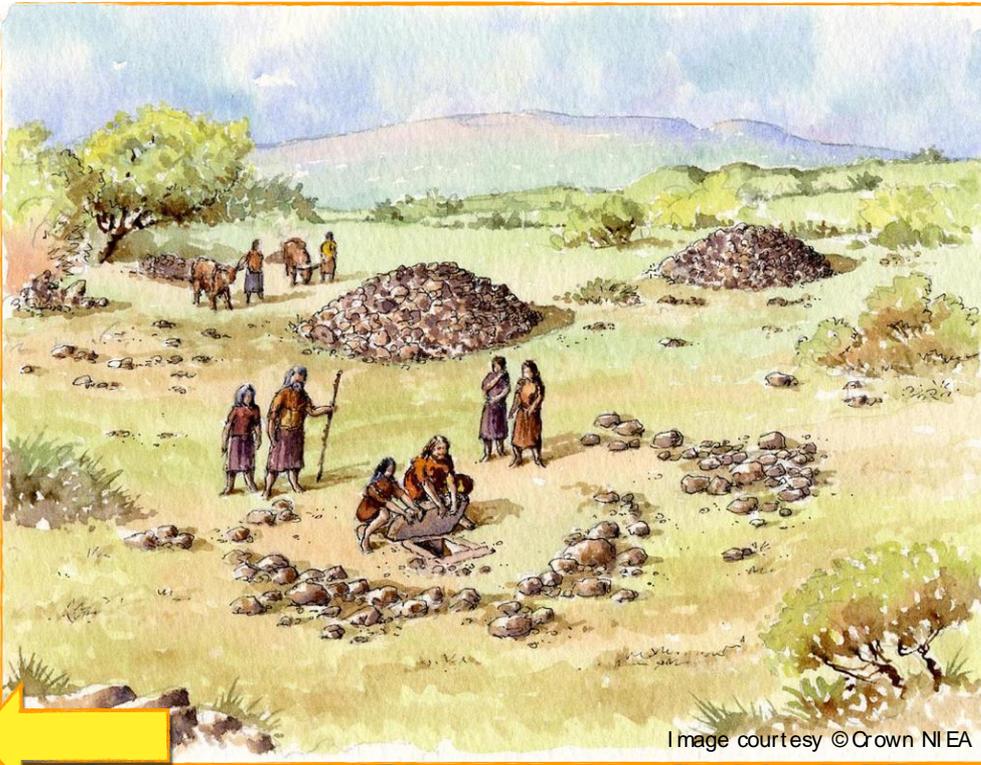


Image courtesy © Crown NIEA

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A cairn is a mound of stones that is placed over a stone burial box called a kist. Can you see the helpers in the background gathering stones?

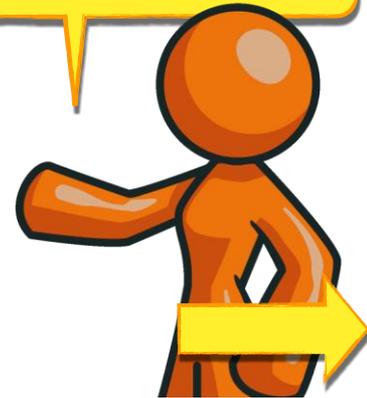
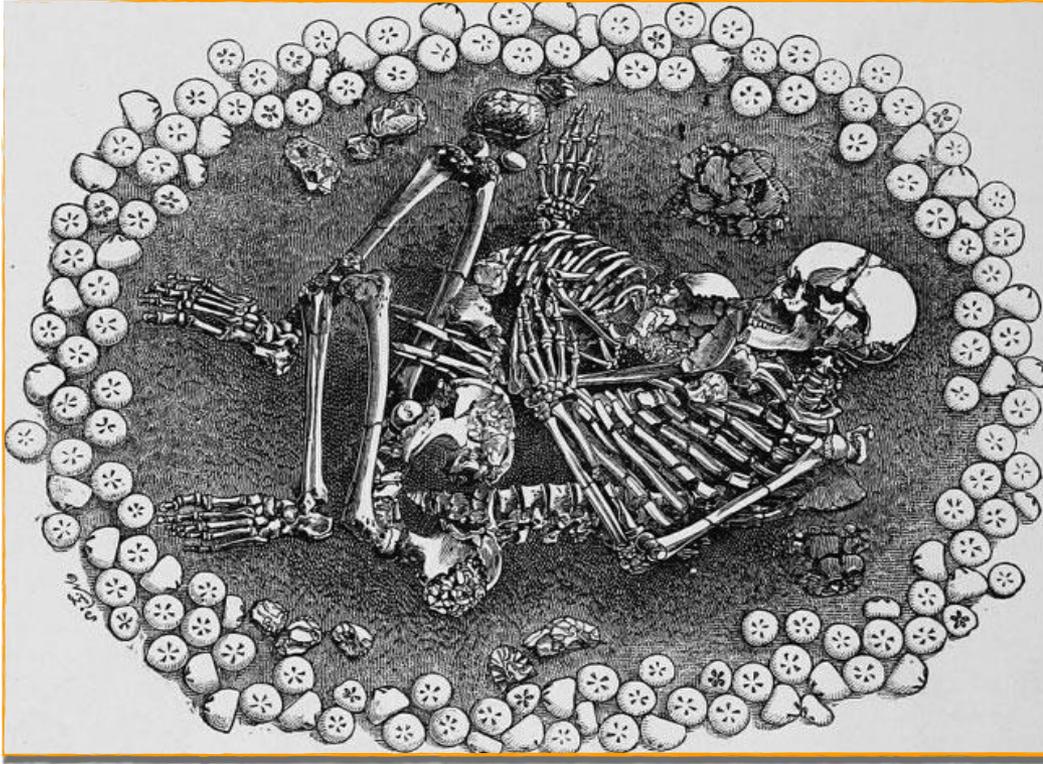


Image courtesy © Crown NIEA



There is lots of evidence of stone circles from this time. These may have represented the ancestors of the people. They were probably used for ceremonial purposes.



Round barrows and cairns were usually used for only one or two people who were buried complete, like the mother and child in this illustration.

People also buried objects with their dead, such as pottery. The pair above have been buried with more than 200 sea urchin fossils, as well as flint tools and broken pots.

By the end of the Bronze Age, the climate in Britain was getting colder and wetter. Highland sites like Dart moor were abandoned by the people who lived there because they were so inhospitable.

Here are the remains of the stone footings of a Bronze Age roundhouse, with a stone wall in the background.



Your tasks:

Hard:

Draw or build a replica of Stone Henge. Label it. Write a paragraph about why it is important.

Harder:

Draw or build a replica of a bronze age settlement. Label it. Explain how this was different to previous eras.

Hardest:

Carry out further research and create a non chronological report about life in the Bronze Age.