



# THE BRONZE AGE KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

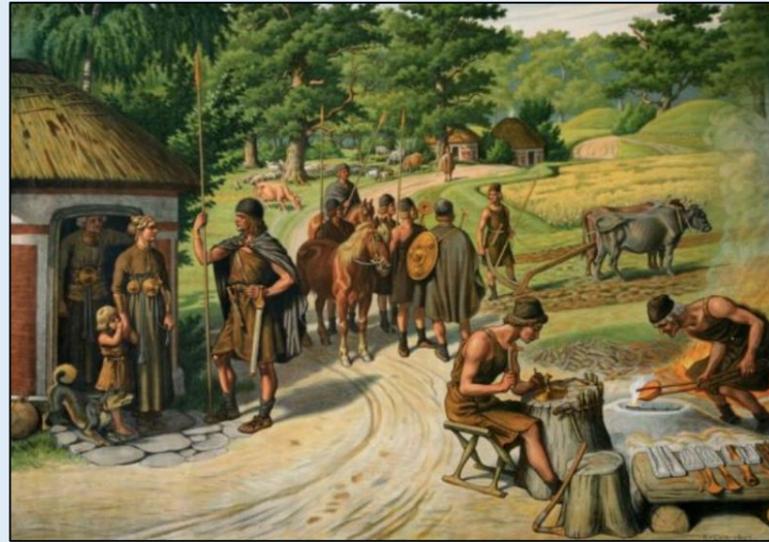


## Overview

### The Bronze Age

The Bronze Age is the name given to the time period when bronze replaced stone as the material for making tools and weapons. This helped to influence big changes in the way that people lived.

The Bronze Age is the period of time between the Stone Age and the Iron Age. It is difficult to give an exact time period for when the Bronze Age occurred, as it bronze was discovered in different places at different times. However, most experts suggest that the Bronze Age started around 3300BCE and ended in 1200BCE.



## Life in the Bronze Age

<b>Bronze</b>		Bronze was made by heating the metals tin and copper, and then mixing them together. They combined to form liquid bronze, which could be poured and moulded into different shapes. Bronze allowed for a greater range of tools and weapons.	<b>Fact</b> Bronze is harder than both of the materials that it is made from.
<b>Trade</b>		Improved sailing skills and better sailing equipment, meant that trade could take place over long distances. Early tracks and roads were able to support carts and wagons that were drawn by animals, such as horses.	<b>Fact</b> Water systems, such as the Nile or Tigris, became busy trade highways.
<b>Divided Society</b>		Trade in bronze and other goods meant that some people in society became extremely wealthy and powerful. Over time, this led to a divided society, with kings and priests at the top, farmers and traders in the middle, and lowly slaves at the bottom.	<b>Fact</b> Burial arrangements, and what people were buried with, were determined by the person's wealth.
<b>Bronze Age Britain</b>		The Bronze Age in Britain spanned from around 2500BCE until around 800BCE. One of the most common forms of Bronze Age housing in Britain was the roundhouse, which was built to a circular plan, and had walls posts built of wood or stone filled with 'wattle' and 'daub.' Spirituality grew in Britain at this time, with giant monuments (such as Stonehenge and Aveyr) being built around this time.	<b>Fact</b> Many historians believe that bronze was brought to Britain by the 'Beaker People' who travelled from Europe – so named as they drank from bell-shaped 'beakers.'
<b>Weaving</b>		People could now weave wool into cloth. There is evidence of looms from the era, and paintings from the time show people wearing more elaborate clothing.	<b>Fact</b> Evidence of weaving is limited, as cloth perishes.

## The Beaker Culture

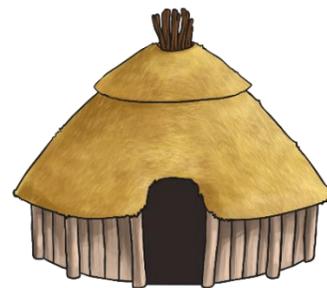
Around 2500BC settlers from mainland Europe brought a new skill to Britain. Some settlers who arrived belonged to the Bell Beaker culture. They have been named after the distinctive bell-shaped pottery they made, mainly used for drinking from. The pottery was decorated with bands that had impressions in them made by a comb or a cord pressed into the clay. The pots were also used to smelt copper, store food or used as urns. An intricate item of pottery would be a display of wealth and status



Beaker people lived in clans led by powerful chiefs. They held religious ceremonies at stone circles, and buried their dead in circular graves. These customs became part of life in Ancient Britain.

## Houses

In the Bronze Age, people no longer used one dwelling for everything. A farming household might have consisted of two houses. A main house would be used to live in and an out-house used for cooking and textile production.



## Important Vocabulary

trade	Europe	settlers
roundhouse	divided society	monuments