

The Bronze and Iron Age

Which was more impressive - the Bronze or the Iron Age?

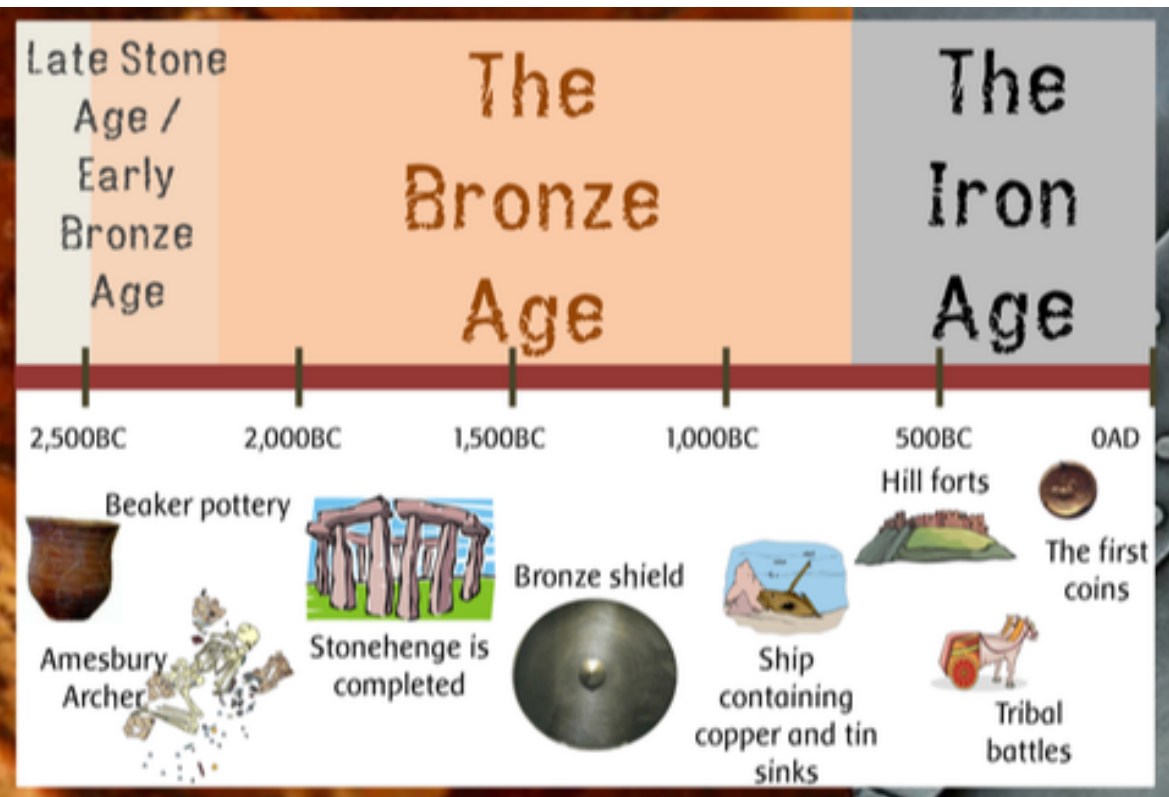
Vocabulary

Smelting	Separating copper and tin from their natural ores by heating them.
Bronze	An alloy (a mix of metals made from 90% copper and 10% tin.
Hoard	A store of money or valuable objects
Settlement	A place where a group of people live together in many buildings.
Tribe	A group of people, often related through family, culture and language, usually with one leader.
Ingot	A block of metal such as bronze
Roundhouse	The standard housing built in Britain from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age
Hill fort	A way for Celtic tribes to defend themselves from enemy attacks
Era / Period	A length of time covering many years
Monument	Something built to remember an important person or event
Impressive	Having the power to gain attention or admiration

The Amesbury Archer
A Bronze Age man buried with around 100 objects!



A Bronze Age hill fort



Key knowledge

The Bronze Age is a period of time, with no written records, where early humans made tools from bronze. The Bronze Age lasted around 1500 years - from around 2000 BC to 650 BC when the Iron Age began. Bronze was used for tools, weapons, armour and building materials. This metal was stronger and more durable than stone, making more effective weapons and tools.

During the Bronze Age, farming was a big part of life. People moved from the hills to the valleys where it was easier to grow food. Metal tools made it much easier to clear forest and grow more crops. Bronze is an alloy (a mix of metals made from 90% copper and 10% tin.

The houses were usually round with a fire in the middle for light and cooking. Grass was sometimes grown on the roof to keep the heat in.

The Iron Age began in around 650 BC. Iron tools made farming much easier than before and settlements grew in size.

Iron Age Britain was a violent place. Rival tribes fought with deadly iron weapons. Many people lived in hill forts to protect themselves from attack.

Iron Age hill forts were surrounded by walls and ditches. Warriors defended their people from enemy attack. Inside the hill forts, families lived in round houses.

Iron Age farmers grew crops and vegetables. They kept geese, goats and pigs and had large herds of cows and flocks of sheep.

Some people worked as potters, carpenters and metalworkers. Men and boys trained as warriors - they had to be ready to fight at any time.

