

## 'How different was life in the Bronze Age and Iron Age?'

### When did the Bronze Age and Iron Age take place?

**The Bronze Age and Iron Age** happened *after* the Stone Age (between 2500 BC and 800 BC) and *before* the **Roman invasion** of Britain (AD 43).

Palaeolithic (Stone Age)	Mesolithic & Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age	Roman Period	Anglo-Saxons
2 million – 10,000 BC	10,000 BC	2500 BC	800 BC	43 AD	400's
					

### Why did people in Britain start to use metal?



Beaker Folk from Europe come to Britain



Amesbury Archer remains found



Smelting bronze

### What were the advantages of using bronze and iron?

**Bronze** and **iron** replaced stone for many reasons.

- **Strong** Iron was **harder and stronger** than bronze.
- **Sharp** Ploughs meant more land could be farmed...
- **Hard** ...more people could be fed so...
- **Durable** ...settlements grew bigger so...
- **Shiny** ...Britain's population grew.



### How did settlements change between the Bronze and Iron Ages?

Bronze Age people lived in **small farming settlements** like Must Farm in Whittlesea.

Iron Age people lived in **hill forts** such as Maiden Castle in Dorset.

The forts were surrounded by walls and ditches. Warriors defended their people from enemy attacks.

Families lived in **round houses** made from wattle and daub. In the centre of a round house was a fire. Iron Age **farmers** grew crops and vegetables. They kept geese, goats and pigs and had large herds of cows and flocks of sheep. Men and boys trained as warriors. They had to be prepared to fight at any time.





Strabo  
(63 BC – AD 24)  
Greek geographer,  
and historian

## How did trade between the Bronze and Iron Age?

*"Most of the island is flat and overgrown with forests, although many of its districts are hilly. It bears grain, cattle, gold, silver, and iron. These things, accordingly, are exported from the island"* (Strabo)

**EVIDENCE**



### The Dover Boat

Bronze Age  
1500BC (3500  
years old)

Discovered and  
excavated in  
1992.

## How did burials change?

### Bronze Age (2500 – 800 BCE)

Burial - barrows, individual graves and cremation.  
Grave Goods – necklace, arrowheads, ring, gold discs  
Location – Knowes of Trotty, Orkney Islands, Scotland



### Iron Age (800 BCE – 43 CE)

Burial – Excarnation (open air burial) and cremation.  
Grave Goods – tools, weapon, jewels, jars with food  
Location - Portesham, Dorset, England



**EVIDENCE**

## Key vocabulary

Spelling	Definition
BCE (BC)	Before Common Era (BC – Before Christ)
CE (AD)	Common Era (AD1 to present day)
Beaker Folk	A culture of Western Europe during the Bronze Age
bronze	an alloy of copper (90%) and zinc or tin (10%)
iron	a strong, hard magnetic silvery-grey metal
smelting	obtaining metal from rock by a process of heating and melting
farming	the activity of growing crops and raising livestock
scythe	tool used for cutting crops with a curved blade at the end of a pole
Celts	a group of people, living in communities, inhabiting much of Europe and Britain in pre-Roman times.
hill fort	show reverence and adoration for a god(s)
trade	The buying and selling of goods between tribes and countries
evidence	Anything that gives information to help us understand the past