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Bronze Age to Iron Age



Timeline

2300 B.C.	1800 B.C.	1200-800 B.C.	800-700 B.C.	700-500 B.C.	100 B.C.
Start of the Bronze Age	The first copper mines are dug	Metal tools are made and used	Start of the Iron Age / The first hill forts are made	Iron is more commonly being used	Coins are made and used for the first time / Iron Age end with Romans in 43 AD

Bronze Age - 2300 BCE to 800 BCE

The mining of metals helped transform the world's use of trade, weaponry, pottery and jewellery. The creation of bronze, gold and copper items around this time signalled the end of the Stone Age and the start of the Bronze Age. These improved tools led to developments in farming and therefore larger productions able to feed growing cities. The invention of the wheel meant that animal drawn vehicles could drive along tracks and roads. The potter's wheel and textile production meant that better pottery and clothing could be produced.

Iron Age - 800 BCE to 43 CE

The Iron Age is a period of history when iron became the preferred metal of choice for making tools which is seen to have ended with the spread of the Roman Empire from 43 A.D. Iron was more readily available than bronze and was much easier to work with. This led to further improvements in farming and diet. During this time the Celts lived as an advanced Iron Age society. There were three main branches of Celts in Europe – Brythonic, Gaulic and Gaelic. Brythonic Celts (Britons) settled in England. Some people can still speak Celtic languages such as Welsh and Gaelic. Most Iron Age people worked and lived on small farms and their lives were governed by the changing of the seasons.

The Bronze Age Vocabulary

foundry	A place of work where metal castings are made.
jewellery	Wearing bronze items was a way to show how rich you were.
Stonehenge	A mysterious set of enormous stones built 3000 B.C. – 1500 B.C.
roundhouses	A circular house with a conical roof and wattle and daub walls.
weapons	Combining copper and tin to made hard weapons and armour.

The Iron Age Vocabulary

Celts	NW Europeans who used iron from 600 B.C. – 43 A.D.
hillforts	Small towns built on a hilltop surrounded by banks of soil and wooden walls to keep out enemies.
smithing	Blacksmiths would heat iron and create weapons / tools.
weapons	Swords, daggers and arrowheads were made of iron.

Bronze Age Artefacts



The Mold Cape
Worn by wealthy women during ceremonies.



Bronze Age Torc
A type of jewellery.



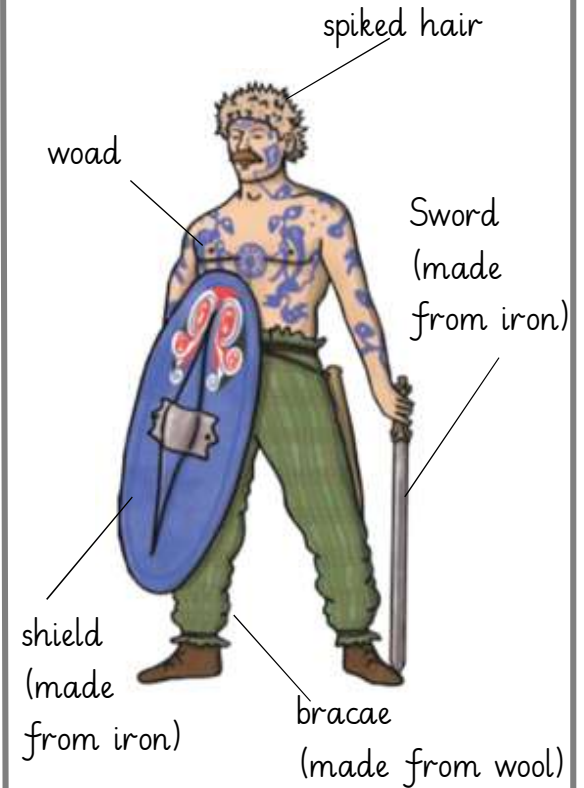
Socketed Axe

Axes became more sophisticated during the Bronze Age. An axe head with a socket was developed so that a wooden handle could fit onto it.

Bronze Age People

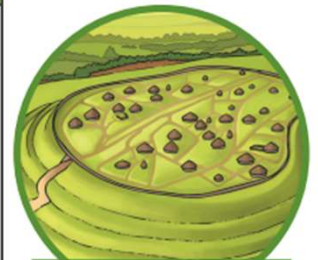
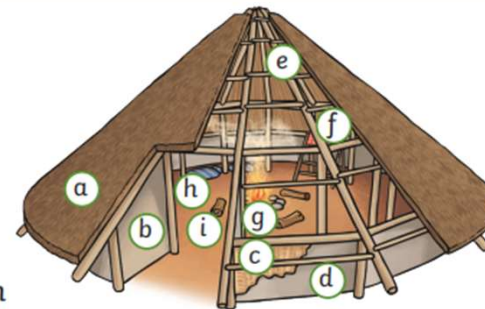


Iron Age Celtic Warrior



Roundhouses

- a. thick thatch
- b. door
- c. wattle
- d. daud
- e. timber frame
- f. upright loom
- g. hearth (fire)
- h. beds
- i. logs for sitting on



An Iron Age hillfort