

History - Heavy Metal



Key Vocabulary

Bronze Age	the Bronze Age is a period in history when humans used bronze.
Smelting	smelting is the process heating a metal ore to extract the raw metal.
Melding	melding is mixing or combining two things together.
Iron Age	the Iron Age is a period in history when people used iron.
Settlement	a settlement is a place where people have settled to live and work.
Metalwork	metalwork is the process of creating items from metal.

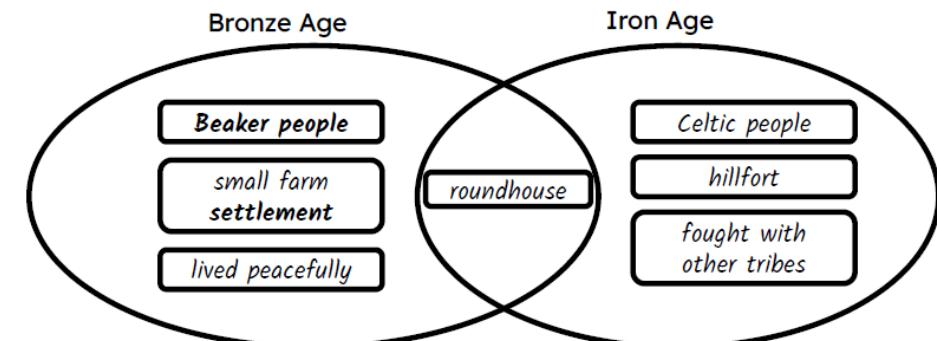
The Stone Age ended when people learned how to make bronze by mixing together two other metals. Bronze was lighter, easier to work with and stronger than stone. This new age was called the Bronze Age.

Can you find out which two metals make bronze?

The Bronze Age and the Iron Age shared some similarities, such as the use of metal tools and the importance of farming in daily life. However, there were also key differences: iron tools were stronger and more durable than bronze, and Iron Age settlements were often more protected, with hillforts and defensive structures.



Life in the Bronze Age improved as farming became more successful, with stronger bronze tools making jobs like farming and building easier. As people produced more food and goods, trade began to grow, allowing communities to exchange items such as tools, jewellery and materials with others.



History - Heavy Metal

Farming in the Iron Age

During the Iron Age, the use of strong iron ploughs and tools made farming more efficient and less difficult. Farmers were able to grow more crops and produce extra food, which helped villages grow larger and support more people.

Ard plough



Sickle



Iron was even stronger than bronze, so when people began making tools and, probably more importantly, weapons from it, the old technology became obsolete and the Iron Age began.
Why would an iron sword be better to have than a bronze sword?

Settlements and Trade

During the Iron Age, people lived in settlements such as roundhouses, often grouped together inside hillforts for protection. Trade increased with other parts of Europe, and people began to use coins and valuable objects to exchange goods, helping trade to grow and communities to become wealthier.

roundhouse



hill

ramparts

Illustration of a hillfort

Why do you think that iron replaced bronze?