

The Bronze and Iron Age :What was the impact of bronze and iron on Celtic culture?

History

Knowledge organiser

Teaching focus: The changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age
Learning Lens: Cultures and Pastimes
Class: Year 3

Previous Knowledge

The Stone Age was when early humans used tools from stone. This was known as pre-history. At the end of the Ice Age, sea levels rose and turned Britain into an island. The Stone Age had three periods: Palaeolithic ('Old' Stone Age), Mesolithic ('Middle' Stone Age) and Neolithic ('New' Stone Age).

Project Hook or 'Wow' memory

Making clay and straw Round Houses

The key skills we want pupils to use during this topic:

Chronology—Use timelines to place events in order. Use words like ancient, prehistory, BCE and AD.

Knowledge and Understanding—Use dates, and vocabulary accurately to describe houses, settlements, culture and the way of life, plus peoples beliefs. Suggest reasons for why they behaved as they did.

Historical contexts—Use a range of source material to collate information about the past. Identify the difference between fact and fiction. Compare two different pieces of evidence and explain the differences or similarities.

Learning Steps

Key Knowledge (answers)

When did the Bronze Age start? Who were the 'Beaker People'?

The Bronze Age began in 2,500 BCE when the Beaker people began to arrive in Britain from Europe. They were metal workers who got their name from the distinctive bell shaped beakers that they brought with them. They brought new ways of making metal.

What was life like in the Bronze Age?

Bronze Age people lived in settlements which was a group of round houses. Settlements traded resources like copper and tin. Trading ships travelled to mainland Europe carrying copper, tin and precious objects made by the metal workers. Burials and religious beliefs were important.

What evidence is there from the time that supports this knowledge?

Amesbury Archer—various websites
<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/history/britains-oldest-shipwreck-discovered-off-devonshire-coast-1903687.html>

When was the Iron Age? Who were the Celts?

The Iron Age in Britain stretched from 800BCE to 43AD. The people were known as the Celts. They lived in clans or tribes in small agricultural settlements sharing the same language, culture and religion. The change to the Iron Age was a gradual process. Tools were made from iron.

What was life like for Celtic Britons?

New farming tools were used. Southern and Eastern Britain was arable farming. The settlements became larger. Hill forts were built. There were battles between the tribes who fought each other for more land and power. New technology : lathe, potters wheel, rotary quern, the chariot and coinage.

What were the religious beliefs during this time?

The Celts believed in powerful spirits. They met to worship in sacred places. Druids led religious ceremonies. They sacrificed animals and humans. They gave precious offerings to the spirits by burying them in the ground or throwing them into rivers, lakes or bogs. There were four main festivals: Imbolc, Beltane, Lughnassad and Samhain.

Key vocabulary

Barrow	A large structure made of earth that people used to build over graves
Bronze	Copper and tin are melted together to make the metal called bronze
Druids	Powerful religious leaders
Hillfort	Settlements built on hills to provide more protection
Rampart	A defensive wall built for protection
Sacrifice	Offerings to spirits such as weapons, animals and humans
Trade	The activity of buying, selling, exchanging goods or services

Final Written Outcome

A non—chronological report about life in the Bronze Age and Iron Age as a result of the development of the new metals.

Alternative Outcome: Two posters—one on the Bronze Age and one on the Iron Age showing metal products were used or has changed the lives of the people.

