

ABOUT : The Bronze Age

Origins

The extraction of metal ores from the ground started as far back as 5500BC in Persia and Afghanistan. Bronze was discovered/developed in the Middle East in around 3800BC. The best known Bronze Age societies were in Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, the Indus Valley and China. The Bronze Age didn't spread to Britain until around 2100BC.

What Is Bronze?

Tin and copper were available and in use before bronze was created, but both were soft metals, not particularly useful for tools and weapons. When tin and copper are heated up and melted together they form bronze, a yellowish looking metal. Bronze was much harder and therefore more useful.

Bronze Age Inventions

Two very important inventions had a big effect on people's lives. First, 'the wheel', which led to the production of carts and other early vehicles being pulled by cattle. The second was the metal plough. Along with the development of irrigation, this led to a change in farming, with forest clearance and larger fields. It also made it easier to grow crops throughout the year.

Other Effects

The Bronze Age saw advances in navigation, trade and textile production. The potter's wheel also dates back to this period.

Why is Bronze not used so much now?

Iron ore was more widely available and iron products harder than bronze ones. When people discovered how to make iron and then used it for making weapons and tools, this led to a decline in the use of bronze.

THE BRONZE AGE - *more information...*

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you want to find out even more about the Bronze Age, use the links below.

Further information :

<http://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/the-bronze-age>

<http://kids.britannica.com/elementary/article-352883/Bronze-Age>

http://www.ancient.eu/Bronze_Age/

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