



**L.O. To understand the changes in Britain over the Bronze Age.**



There is a large period of time for which we have no written records, we call this 'prehistory'. Starting from evidence of the first early humans, it is split into three sections.

The Stone Age – 800,000 BC

The Bronze Age – 2,100 BC

The Iron Age – 750 BC

The **Bronze Age** in Britain lasted around 1500 years.





# Why the Bronze Age?

Just like the Stone Age was so called because early humans made tools from stone, the Bronze age was called the Bronze Age because humans started making tools from..... Bronze!

Bronze was an **alloy** made from copper and tin.

**alloy** -a metal made by combining two or more metals to improve its properties.





# Why Bronze?

Copper is a soft metal, but when it is melted and added to tin the result (bronze) is a much harder and durable material than copper or stone. It was used for tools, weapons and armour as well as building materials like decorative tiles.

There was an early form of bronze in the North Caucasus known as arsenic bronze, which was a natural alloy that could be dug from the ground.

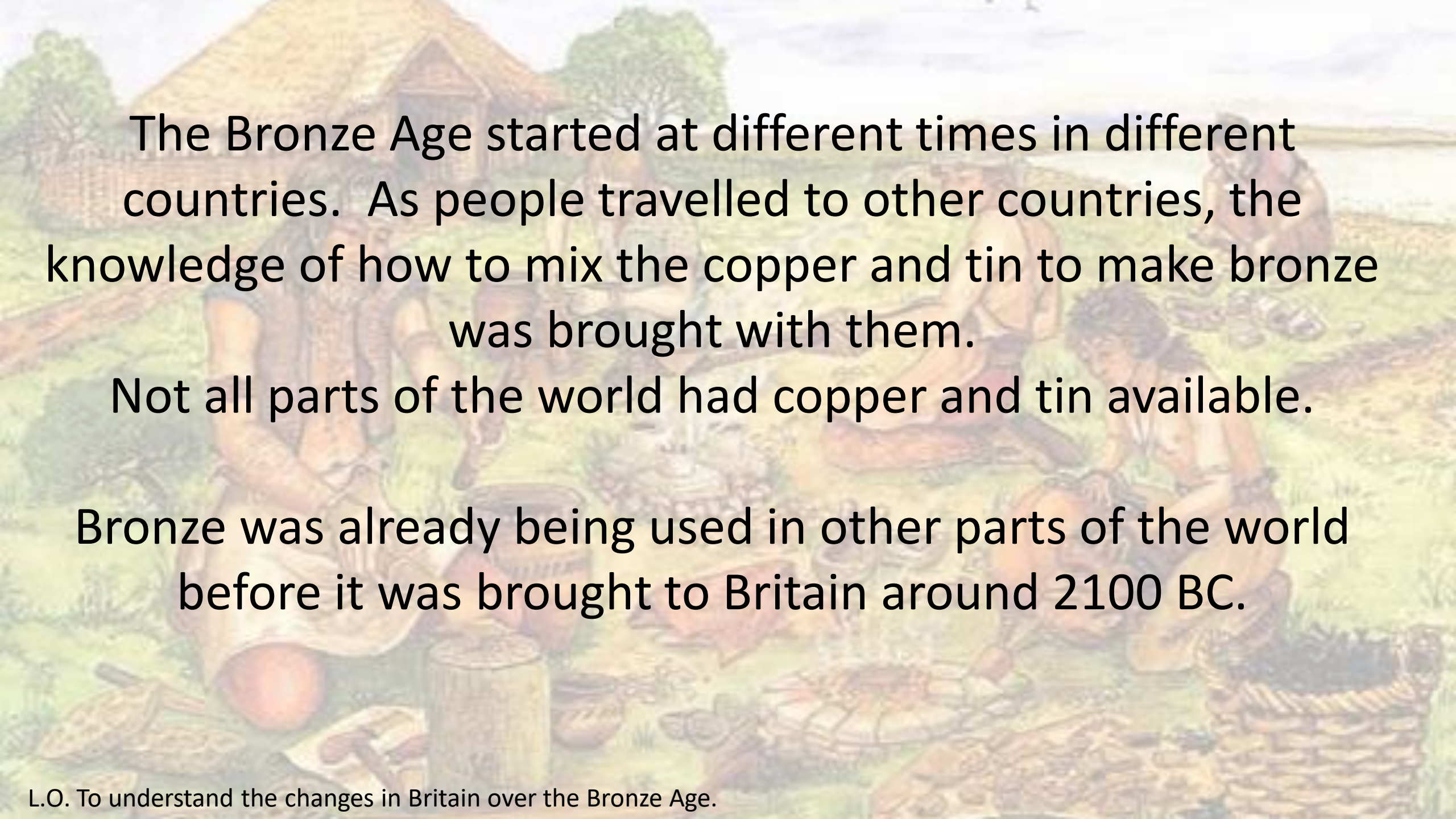
The bronze alloy made from copper and tin was developed later.

The copper and tin had to be mined separately and then melted down and combined to make bronze.

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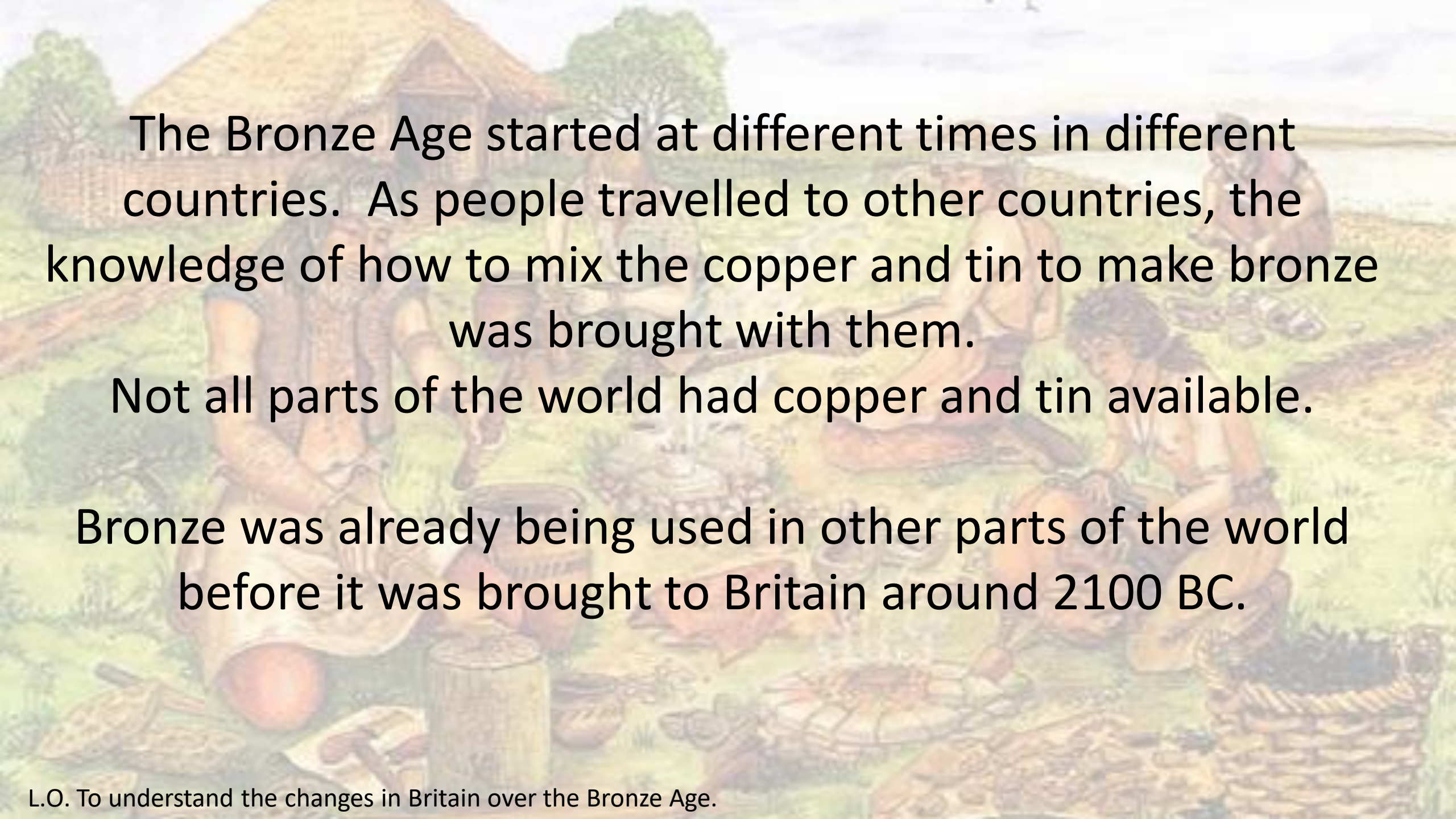


The Bronze Age started at different times in different countries. As people travelled to other countries, the knowledge of how to mix the copper and tin to make bronze was brought with them.

Not all parts of the world had copper and tin available.

Bronze was already being used in other parts of the world before it was brought to Britain around 2100 BC.





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## 3600-3500BC Middle East

Bronze has started to be used. Either through naturally occurring Bronze or as an alloy. No one knows how or who invented Bronze but by around 3500 BC, farm tools and weapons are being made of this new metal in these areas.



# 3500-3001BC Eastern Europe and Mediterranean

Bronze has started to be used in Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean but it is still difficult and expensive to make.





# 2500-2300BC India and China

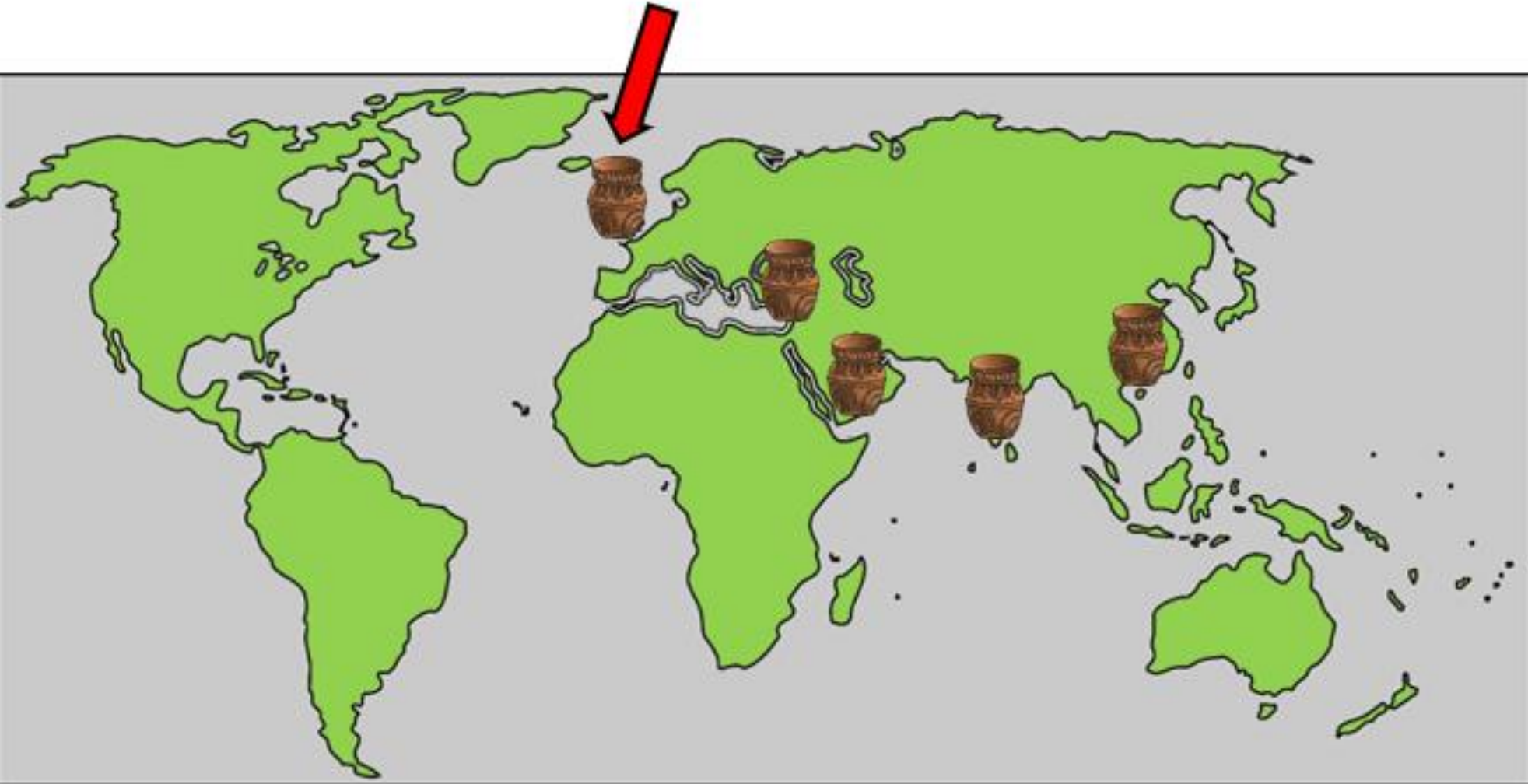
Bronze has started to be used in India and China.





# 2100 BC Britain

Bronze has landed in Britain.  
It is used to make weapons, tools and even hairbrushes.





# Look at each of these images – what is happening in each?

1,200 -800 BC



Round houses are the main domestic structure.

1,800 BC



The first big copper mines are dug.

2,500 - 800 BC



Metal work becomes increasingly sophisticated.

800 BC



Bronze Age ends.  
Iron Age begins.

1,200 - 800 BC



Tribal kingdoms and Celtic cultures develop in Britain.

3,000 BC



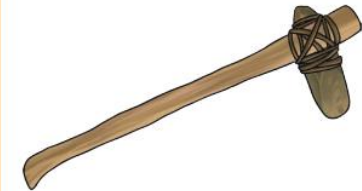
Construction begins on the Stonehenge.

2,500 -1,500 BC



'Bell Beaker' culture arrives in Britain.

2,500 - 800 BC



Bronze axes are developed.

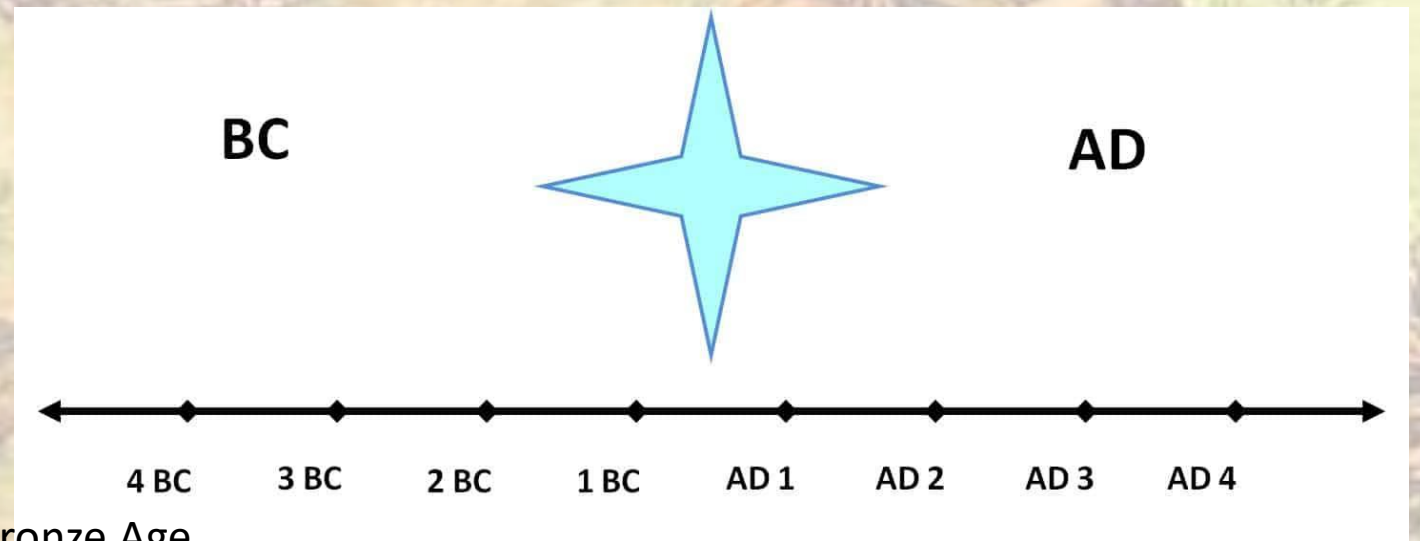
## Do you notice anything about the dates?

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# What does BC mean and how do we read dates?

It simply refers to dates **Before Christ** was born. These dates mean the higher the number the earlier the date counting down to 1BC after Christ was born the years are counted as AD (anno domini, or in the year of our lord). Please note there is **no** 0 year.





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1,800 BC



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Bronze Age ends.  
Iron Age begins.

Draw a timeline (think about the date it needs to start and finish) and either cut and stick the images (using the sheet provided) or copy the information on.

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3,000 BC



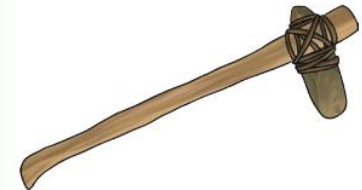
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★ You could start by thinking about the events with the star on them