



the Bronze Age

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The **Bronze Age** is the period of human history after the Stone Age and before the **Iron Age**.



Stone Age

Palaeolithic **Mesolithic** **Neolithic**

700k BC

10k BC

4.5k BC

Bronze Age

2.3k BC

Iron Age

700 BC

AD 43

The **Bronze Age** gets its name from the metal bronze. But why?

Bronze is a metal made when a lot of copper as well as a little tin are mixed together.

That little bit of tin makes the copper harder. And, harder copper was used for knives and swords.



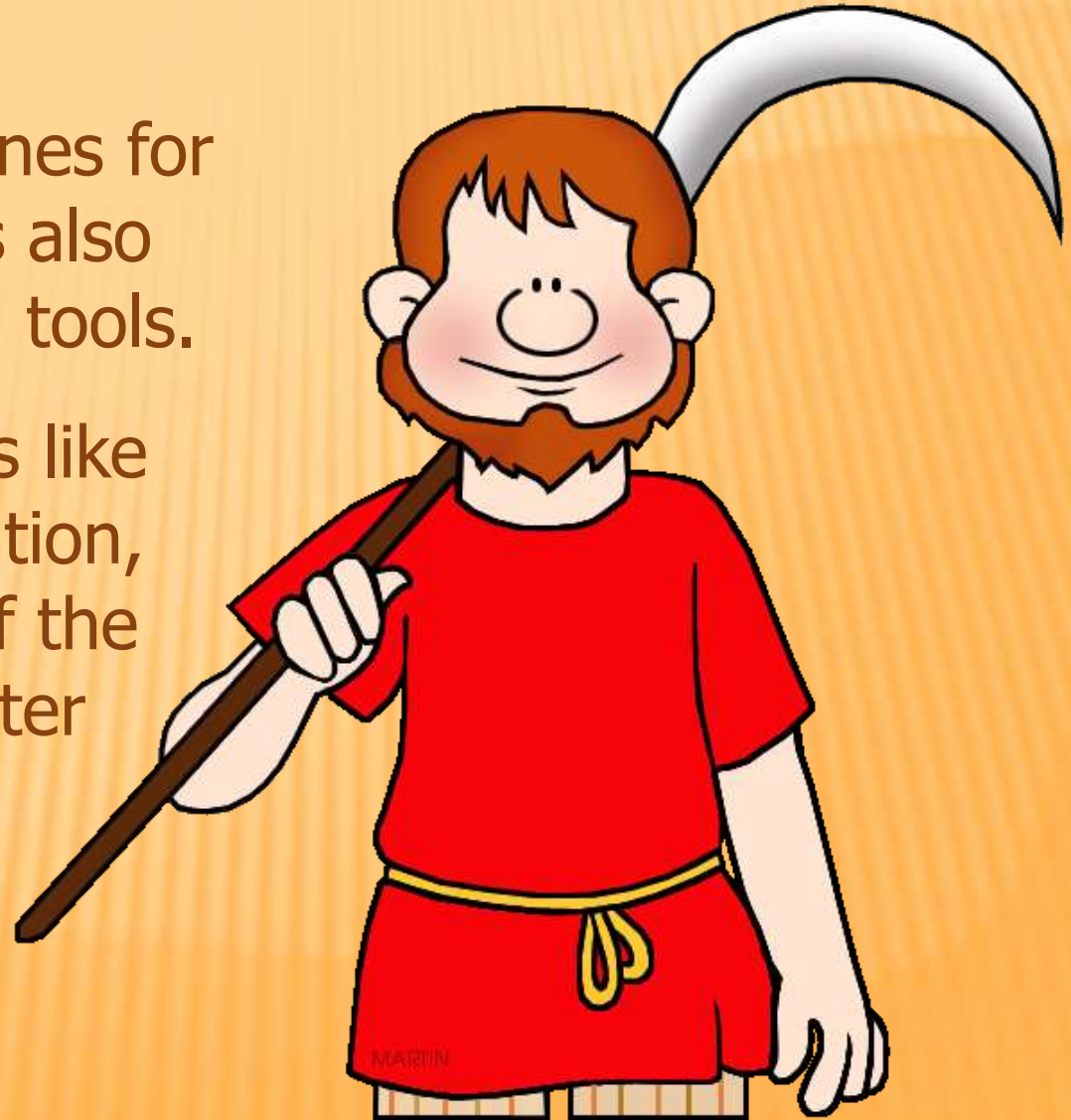
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Bronze was first smelted in western Asia as early as 3800 BC. The technology for smelting developed at different times in different parts of the world. So, there are different dates for the **Bronze Age** depending on if you discuss China, Indus, Egypt, Greece or Mesopotamia.

Bronze replaced stones for weapons, but it was also used for agricultural tools.

With other advances like the wheel and irrigation, life for the people of the **Bronze Age** was better than the **Stone Age**.



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The use of **bronze** introduced the need for specialized labor. It required miners, traders, artisans and metal workers.

Those who made items of metal or traded with those items became the richest members of the society.

A lot of people mentioned in the Bible as well as Egyptian history lived in the **Bronze Age**.

That list includes Abraham, Joseph, Moses and David as well as King Tutankhamun and Ramses II.





Stonehenge, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of over 900 stone ring sites in Britain.

It was made during the **Bronze Age**, at least 300 years before the Egyptian pyramids.