

Axe



This is a Stone Age hand axe. It is made from flint, which is a type of stone. It was shaped by knapping. It could easily break when hit too hard.



This is a Bronze Age axe head. It is made from bronze. It has been shaped in a forge to have a sharp cutting edge. It is very strong and its flat shape means that a wooden handle could be attached.

1. Farmers used axes to chop down trees. Which material is better for this, flint or bronze? Why?

2. How is the shape of the Bronze Age axe better for chopping?

3. Trees were cut down much faster with the Bronze Age axe so the woodland areas were reduced. How do you think the farmers used this cleared land? Why?



Plough



This is a Stone Age digging stick. It is a sharpened stick, with stones attached as weights. Farmers used it to break up the ground so that they could sow their seeds. Digging sticks were easily broken and could not penetrate frozen soil in winter.



This is a Bronze Age plough. It is made from bronze and breaks up the ground easily, even in winter. It does not break when it hits a stone in the field. It is so strong that the farmer could use their animals to pull it.

1. Look at the shape of the Bronze Age plough. How is it better shaped for breaking up the soil than the digging stick?

2. The stone on the digging stick is attached using plant fibres. Look at the shape of the Bronze Age plough. How do you think this would be attached to a handle?

3. The bronze plough was stronger and could break the soil even in winter. How did the farmers benefit from this?

4. If you were a Bronze Age farmer, which of these tools would you use and why?



Sickle



This is a Bronze Age sickle. It is made from bronze. It is sharp on the inside edge. Farmers used it to clear weeds and cut their crops at harvest time. They did this by swinging the sickle in front of them in wide arcs from side to side. They could clear large areas of crops in a short amount of time.

1. In the Stone Age, farmers cut crops with a stone knife. How did the shape of the sickle and the material it is made from help farmers to cut their crops faster?

2. Copper turns green over time when it is exposed to water and air. Why do you think this bronze sickle has turned green?

3. Farmers planted larger fields when the sickle was invented. Why do you think they did this?



Knife



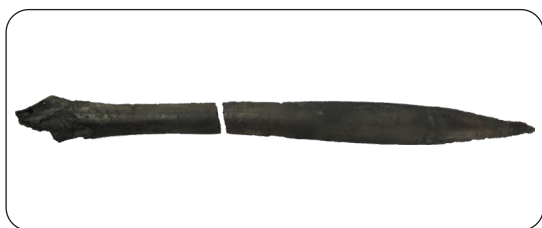
This is a Bronze Age knife. It has rivet holes at one end, showing that it was attached to a handle. It is bevelled, which means that the middle of the knife is raised and slopes down to the edges. These knives were used as weapons and also as farming tools.

1. Knives are used for cutting and stabbing. How do you think the bevel makes the knife better at performing these actions?

2. When metal knives were invented, farmers could shear sheep for their wool. Why was shearing better for the farmer?

3. Sheep's fleece was turned into wool to make clothes. New jobs were created to do this. What do you think they were?

Sword



This is a Bronze Age sword. It is made of bronze. It is bevelled down the middle. It is also wider in the middle and thicker at the end closest to the handle. Swords were used in battle. It was not possible to make swords in the Stone Age.

1. Swords are long and narrow. Why didn't the Stone Age people make swords from stone?

2. Why weren't swords made from copper?

3. How might this sword have been broken?

4. How might the invention of swords have changed people's behaviour in the Bronze Age?



Cape



This Bronze Age gold cape is a special item of clothing. It is made from a solid sheet of gold hammered out from an ingot the size of a golf ball. Its surface is almost completely covered with rings of bosses. A boss is a rounded shape that sticks up from the surface.

1. When do you think this cape was worn?

2. Who do you think would wear it?

3. How do you think they could afford it?

4. What clues tell us that the cape was made by highly skilled craftsmen?

5. What do the rings of bosses resemble?

