

# Life during the Bronze Age

Over 4000 years ago, tribes from Europe came to live in Britain. They brought the knowledge of how to work with metals such as copper, gold and bronze. Eventually, Britons began mining metal and using it to make tools, weapons and jewellery.



## Diet

As Britons began to grow more food, their diet changed. Foods like porridge and bread were eaten due to the increase in farming. Livestock such as sheep, pigs and goats were sometimes eaten, and some animals were kept for their milk.

## Homes

Bronze Age Britons lived in roundhouses in small villages. Roundhouses had walls made of wattle and daub, and a thatched roof. There was a fireplace in the centre for warmth, light and cooking. There was no chimney, but the smoke drifted up through the thatched roof, killing off any insects living there.



## Farming

Farming took over from hunting and gathering as the main way to produce food. Newly-invented metal tools made it easier for farmers to chop down trees to clear the way for farmland. Horse-drawn ploughs helped farmers to plant and grow crops and vegetables. Farmers kept livestock such as goats, sheep and cows.

## Clothes

By the end of the Bronze Age, Britons wore clothes made from wool. The loom was invented, which allowed the Britons to make a range of clothes. Men wore tunics with woollen kilts and cloaks. Women wore long woollen skirts and short tunics.

## Weather

The warm, dry weather of the Neolithic period became cooler and wetter during the Bronze Age. Britons moved off the highest hills down to areas where farming was easier. In the south of Britain, many tribes settled to farm the land.

Images used from: Wikimedia Commons/Public domain