

# Bronze Age Wordsearch

Food Vessels from all over Ireland,  
2000-1800 BC



The Bronze Age in Ireland began around 2500 BC and lasted for about 2000 years. At the National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology there are a lot of artefacts from the Bronze Age on display, from bronze axes, to gold lunulae, and lots and lots of pottery!



Hoard of copper objects, Knocknagur,  
Co. Galway, Early Bronze Age

**museum**

National Museum of Ireland  
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

# Life in Bronze Age Ireland

During the **Bronze Age**, people learnt how to source and use metal to make objects. People built and lived in small wooden houses. They mainly farmed animals, including **cattle**, **pigs** and **sheep**. They also grew crops including **wheat**, **barley** and **oats**. They used bronze to make lots of different objects.

Bronze is an **alloy**, or mixture of two metals, and is mostly made from **copper**, with a little bit of **tin** added to it. Copper is found in Ireland, and it is likely that tin was traded into Ireland from **Cornwall** in England, to make bronze. Bronze was used to make objects such as **axes**, **spears**, **knives**, **swords**, **shields** and **cauldrons**. They also used bronze to make musical instruments, including **horns**.



Two Bronze Horns, Co. Kerry and Co. Antrim, 800-600 BC



Gold lunula, Ballinagroun, Co. Kerry, 2000 BC

People used **gold** to make objects that they would wear. These may have been worn by important people such as kings, queens, or chieftains. They made **lunulae** and **gorgets**, and these were worn around their neck. They also made **sun discs** that they stitched to their clothing. Often, these artefacts are found in rivers, bogs and near lakes. It is thought that people in the Bronze Age placed them here as an offering to their gods.

People made lots of **pottery** in the Bronze Age. This is called **Beaker** pottery. This pottery was made in different shapes and sizes, and sometimes it has a lot of **decoration** on it. It was used for different things such as **cooking** and storing food. Beaker pottery was sometimes placed in graves, alongside the person being buried.

# Wordsearch

Can you find the words about the Bronze Age in the wordsearch? Each underlined word is hidden somewhere in the wordsearch – across, down or diagonally. **GOOD LUCK!**



# Brockagh Axehead

This axehead was found in a bog in Co. Kildare and dates to the Early Bronze Age. When it was found, it was inside a leather cover called a sheath. Because bogs are wet and cold, this helped to preserve the leather, which would normally naturally rot and decay.



The axe is made from copper and it is decorated with herringbone lines. Because the axehead was decorated and kept safe inside a leather sheath, it is thought that it was very well looked after and was only used for special reasons. To be able to use the axehead, it had to be hafted. This means that a handle, most likely made from wood, was attached to the axehead.



**In this space, can you draw the decoration that is seen on the axehead?**