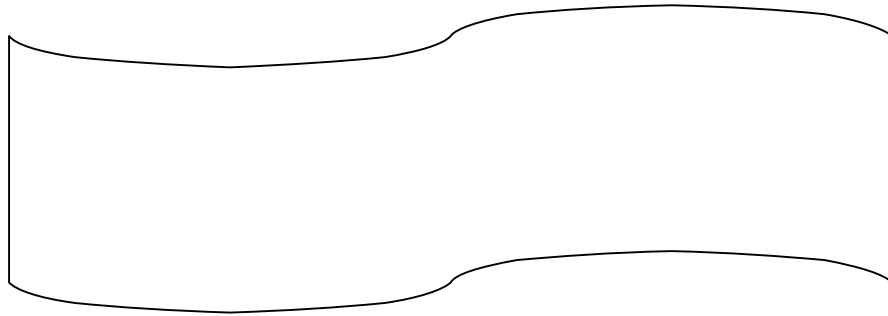


THE COPPER, BRONZE AND IRON AGE

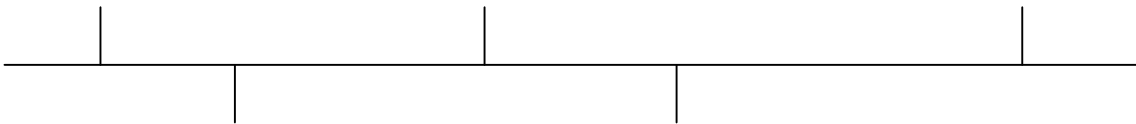
In this unit you will:

- Ø learn how metal was discovered
- Ø read the story of Varna's burying place

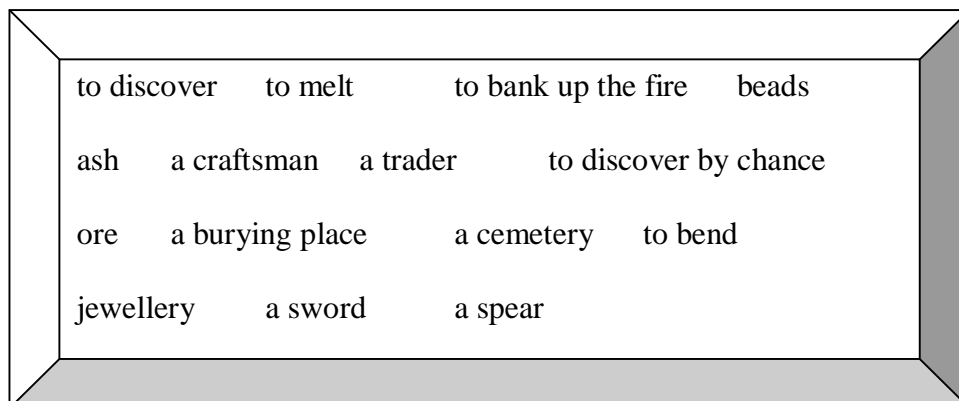
1. What materials did people use to make tools?



2. Put the materials people used to make tools in the chronological order. Start with the oldest one.



3. Look up the following words in your dictionary.



4. Read the following articles how metal was discovered.

**HOW METAL WAS DISCOVERED
WILL NEVER BE KNOWN FOR SURE**

An old Egyptian story says that some travellers who had camped for the night banked up their fire with some pieces of rocks. The next morning some beads of copper were found in the ash. The heat had melted the copper ore. When the travellers realised what had happened, they began to melt the copper ore and use it to make tools.

The Stone Age ended up for some people **when they discovered how to use metal.**

Metal is as hard as stone but it can be melted and bent. Metal does not break easily. It was used to make better tools, weapons and jewellery. Before the discovery of metal, the first people had used wood or stone to make tools.

The first metals to be used successfully were **gold and copper**, later on **bronze – a mixture of copper and tin.**

The discovery of metal led to the creation of new jobs. There were no more only farmers, but the society became divided into farmers, craftsmen and traders. It also caused that some people had more than others had and became much richer. The first states started to be set up and the first kings appeared.

However, the craftsmen were still looking for much harder metal than bronze was. The last metal that was discovered was **iron**. Iron was harder and was used to make farming tools and weapons. The soldiers with iron weapons had an advantage over those using the softer bronze swords and spears.

5. What advantages did the discovery of metal bring?

6. The discovery of metal changed the structure of the society. Think of it and complete the following grid. Then talk about it in your class.

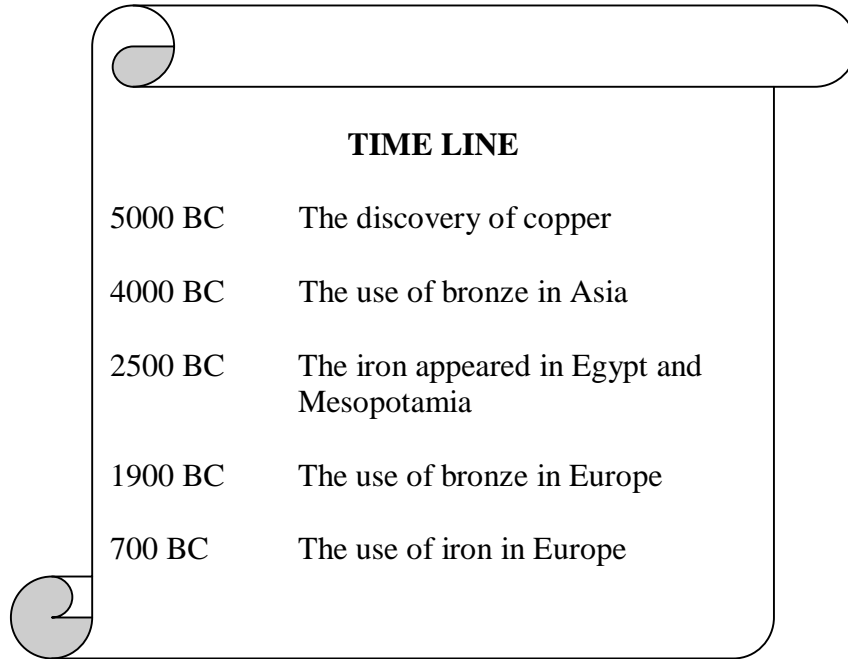
The Stone Age Society	The Bronze and Iron Age Society

7. Read the story of Varna's burying place.

VARNA

In the Bulgarian town Varna, a burying place was found by chance that is dated back to the Copper Age. The archeologists found the gold on the skeleton's skull, around neck, on the hands and on the coat. There were also gold rings, bow and axes. Another axe that was found there was made of stone and was covered by golden rings. This axe was not use neither for work nor for fighting. That axe was the symbol of the power.

8. What more can you read out about the society from the story of Varna?



TIME LINE	
5000 BC	The discovery of copper
4000 BC	The use of bronze in Asia
2500 BC	The iron appeared in Egypt and Mesopotamia
1900 BC	The use of bronze in Europe
700 BC	The use of iron in Europe

9. Test yourself

- 1. When was the metal discovered?**
- 2. How was the metal discovered?**
- 3. When did people start to use bronze in Europe?**
- 4. When did people start to use iron in Europe?**
- 5. How did the use of metal change the structure of the society?**
- 6. Why were the iron weapons better than bronze weapons?**