



THE BRONZE AGE

CONTEXT

THE PERIOD/MOVEMENT:

AFTER THE PERIOD/MOVEMENT:

ARTISTS AND ARTWORKS

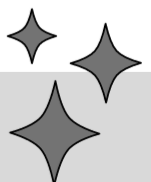
MEDIA AND AREAS OF PRACTICE

ANALYSIS



INNOVATION AND INVENTION

ART ELEMENTS AND DESIGN PRINCIPLES



Quiz

1: When was the Bronze age?

2: What is bronze made from?

3: What was bronze used to make?

4: (i)What metal was used for jewellery and decorative ornaments?

(ii)What other materials were used to make jewellery and ornaments?

(i) _____

(ii) _____

9: Name of this object and location?

Techniques used during manufacturing?

What is it for?

10: Name of this object and location?

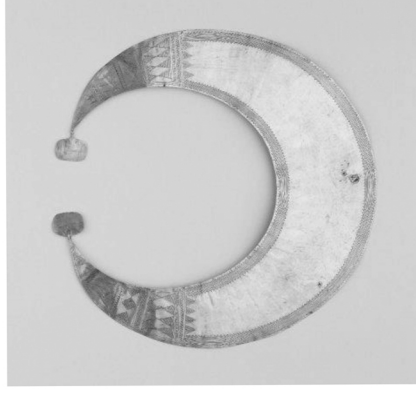
Techniques used during manufacturing?

What is it for?

11: Name of this object and location?

Techniques used during manufacturing?

What is it for?



The Tedavent Sun Discs date from about 2000 BC

Form:

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Function:

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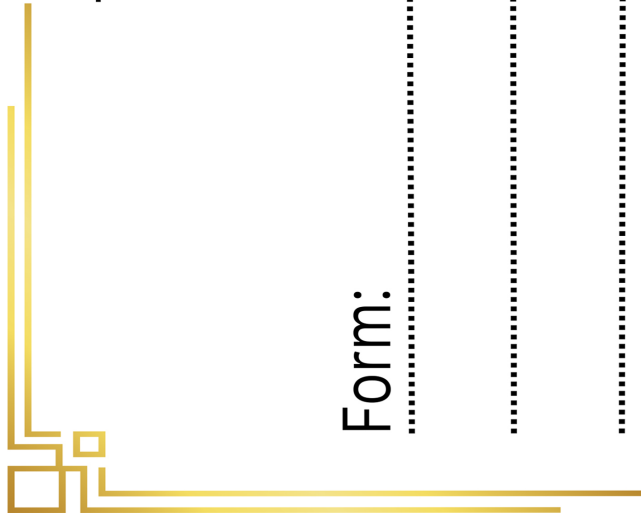
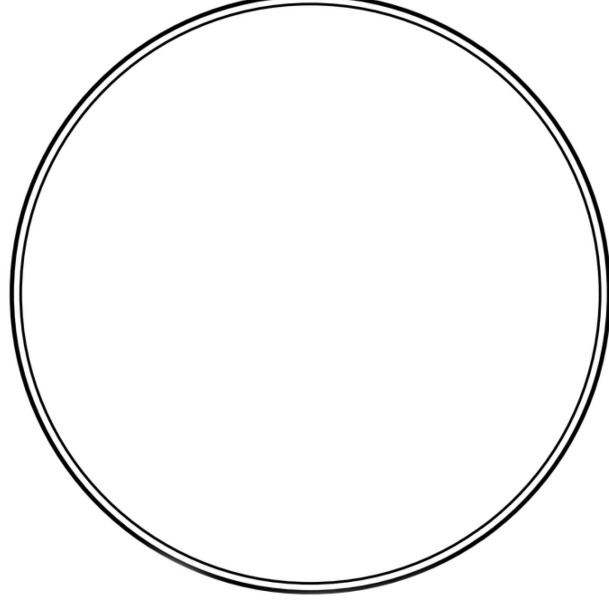
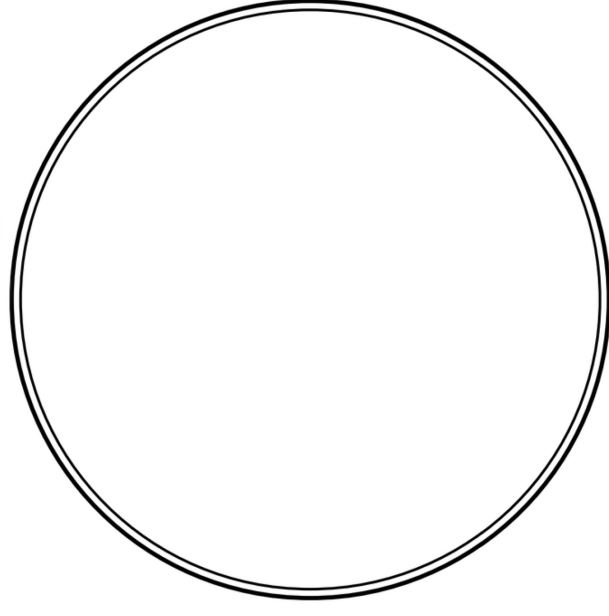
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Technique:

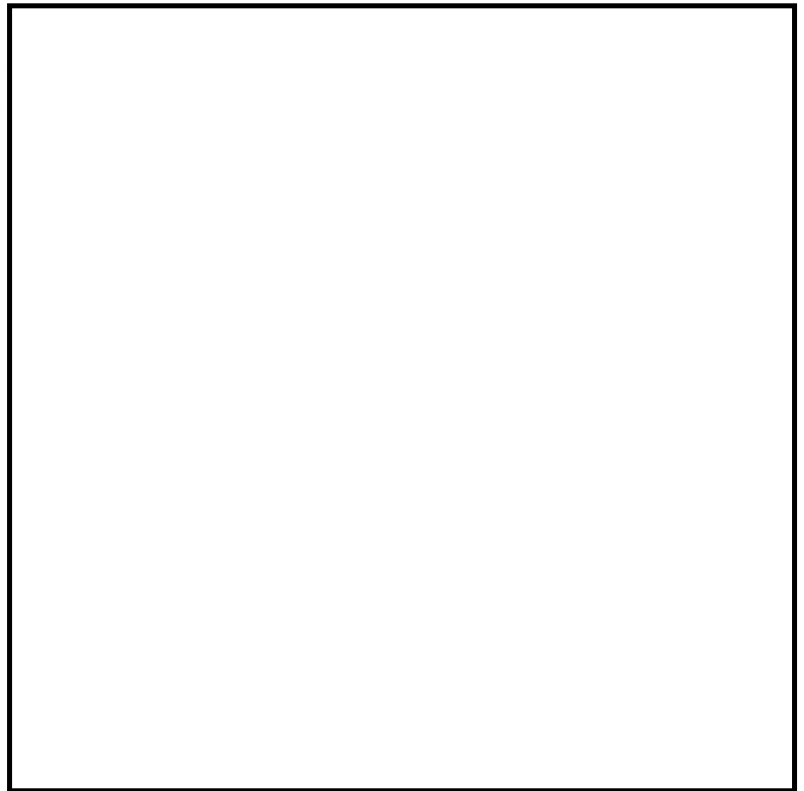
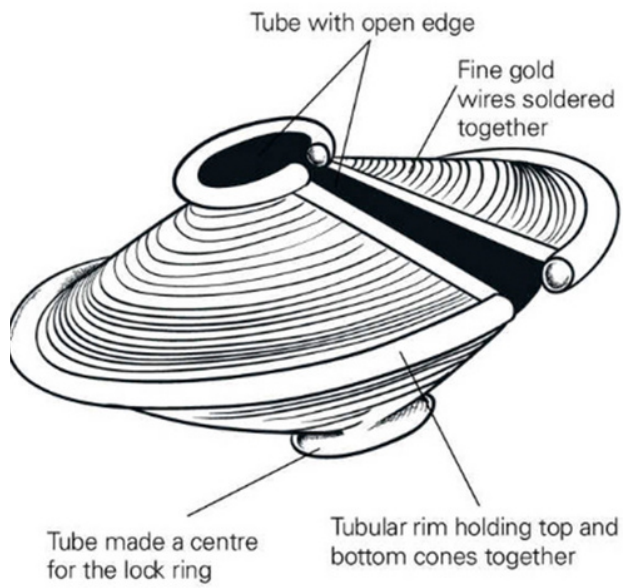
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The Gorteenareagh Lock Rings.



Form:

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Function:

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Technique:

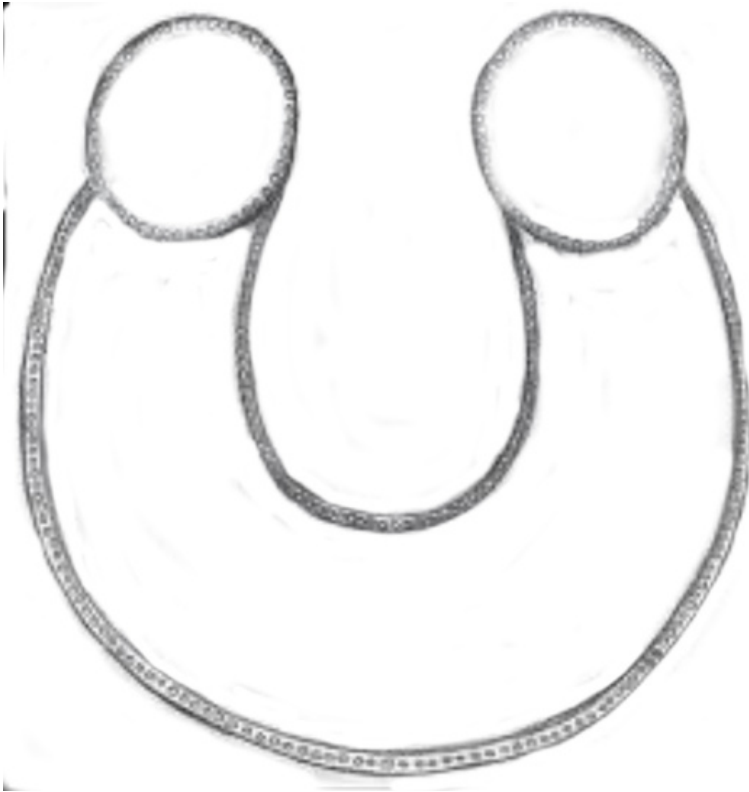
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The Gleninsheen Gorget



Form:

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Function:

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Technique:

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Decoration:

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The Derrinaboy Armbands



Form:

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Function:

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Technique:

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Decoration:

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The Clones Fibula from Co: Monaghan



Form:

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Function:

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Technique:

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Decoration:

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Crescent Shaped Locket



Concentric circles



The Early Bronze Age
1800 BCE. to 1500 BCE.

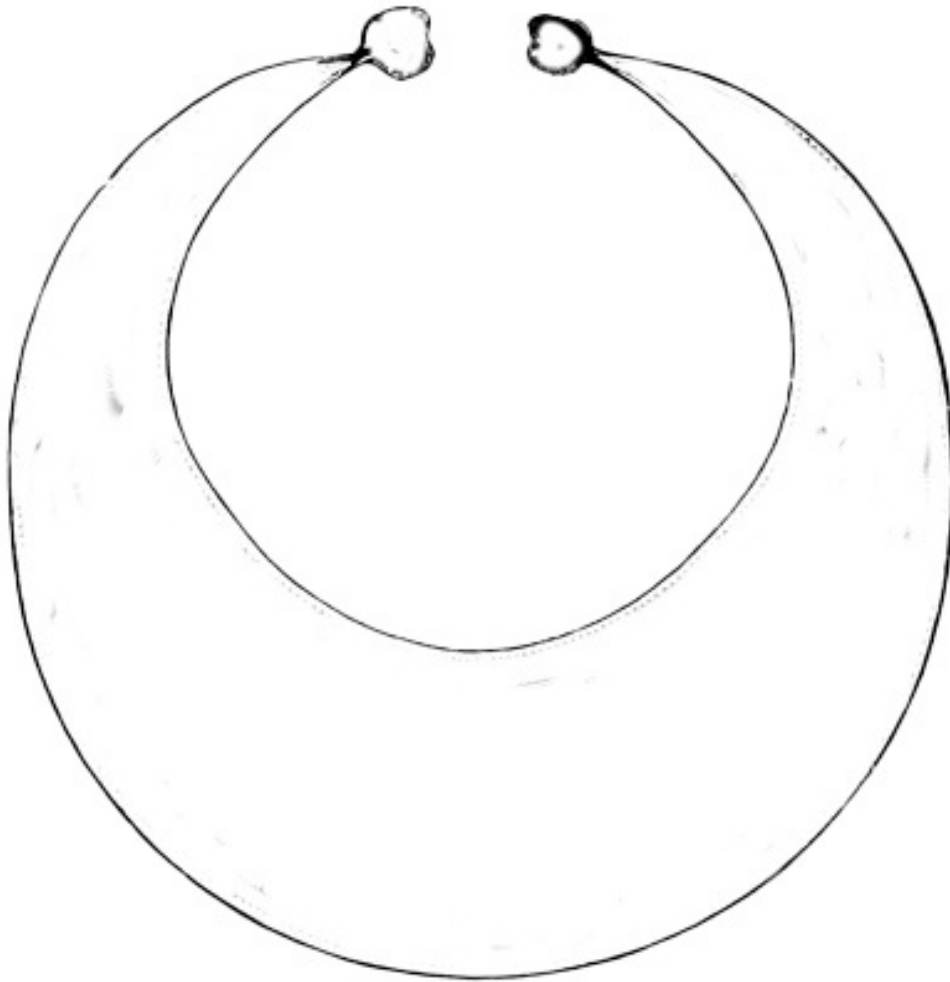
The Middle Bronze Age
1500 BCE. to 1200 BCE.

The Late Bronze Age lasted
from 1200 BCE. to 500 BCE.

Iron Age

BRONZE AGE TIMELINE

Crescent Shaped Lunula



Form:

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Function:

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Technique:

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Decoration:

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The Bronze Age is a term applied to when people began mixing copper and tin to make bronze. Copper had been used before, but combining it with tin made it much stronger, more valuable and durable. In Ireland, the Bronze Age happened between about 1800 and 500 .c.

Before this, there was a lot of movement of people throughout Europe. Groups of people arrived in Ireland, bringing new cultures, skills and customs.

It is thought that these people belonged to four distinct groups, which their burial customs can work out.

- **The Beaker People** (B for Beaker B for Bronze) were the most dominant of these groups. They came from Eastern Europe and settled in two locations in Ireland: the Boyne area in Co. Meath and along the west coasts of Cork, Clare and Galway. They buried their dead in wedge-shaped tombs and introduced the bronze axe to Irish culture. They were named after the drinking vessels resembling beakers found in their burial sites.



- **The Food Vessel People** were related to the Beaker culture. Their burial customs involved single graves and cremation (burning their dead). Ceramic food vessels were placed beside their bodies in their graves.

- **The Bowl Food Vessel People** buried the bodies of their dead in a crouched position with a clay bowl beside them.

- **The Urn People** were the latest people to arrive in Ireland during the Early Bronze Age. They were skilled metalworkers and leatherworkers and buried the cremated remains of their dead under upturned clay bowls (like upside-down urns). These peoples' knowledge of metal brought about considerable changes in Ireland. Many metal tools, weapons and ornaments were created during this era, using new casting techniques, which involved pouring molten metal into shaped moulds of stone or sand.

Extracting Ore from Rock

Bronze-Age miners used a series of steps to retrieve the mineral ore from the rock.

1. They lit a fire to expand the substance of the rock.
2. They then threw cold water over the rock. The quick cooling of the rock caused it to shatter.
3. Stone implements were employed to break down the pieces of rock further.
4. The small rock and mineral ore fragments were then smelted down to free the metal.

(The most valuable of the objects created were ornaments, which became increasingly more ornate and beautiful as the Bronze Age civilisations progressed in expertise.)



Pre-Christian Ireland

c. 4000 BC–AD 500



The Knowth Mace Head,
3300–2800 BC



The Entrance Stone at
Newgrange, 3200 BC

THE STONE AGE 4000–2000 BC



The Turoe Stone,
c. 50 BC



The Broighter Collar,
100–50 BC



The Petrie Crown,
100 BC–AD 200

THE IRON AGE c. 500 BC–AD 400

BEFORE
PRE-CHRISTIAN IRELAND

The Palaeolithic Period
c. 10500–4000 BC

PRE-CHRISTIAN IRELAND

THE BRONZE AGE c. 2000–500 BC



The Tedavent Sun
Discs, c. 2000 BC



The Clones Fibula,
c. 700 BC



The Gleninsheen Gorget,
800–700 BC

AFTER
PRE-CHRISTIAN IRELAND

Insular Art
AD 500–1100