

# Solve

**In 1825, two farmers in Dowris, Co. Offaly, went to dig a potato trench. What they found can help to solve this mystery:**

**Did bad weather lead to bad tempers in the Bronze Age?**

**Can you help to solve this mystery? Use the information in the cards to solve your case.**

<p>In the Late Bronze Age, some people had items made of metal and gold to show off their wealth and power.</p>	<p>The hoard found in Dowris included 5 swords, 44 spearheads, 43 axes, 26 horns, 3 bronze buckets and 1 cauldron.</p>	<p>In the Late Bronze Age, most people depended on the land to survive. They grew crops and grazed cattle.</p>
<p>If too much rain falls, crops are more likely to fail and animals become sicker.</p>	<p>For hundreds of years after 1500 BC Ireland's climate became wetter and colder.</p>	<p>Over 600 swords dating from the period 1500 BC to 700 BC have been found in Ireland.</p>
<p>Peat bogs do not contain much oxygen. Objects do not rot or decay easily.</p>	<p>As the weather gets wetter, land becomes marshy and good land becomes scarce. Trees grow more easily and quickly.</p>	<p>Ireland's landscape was very different in the Bronze Age to what it is now. Much more of the land was covered in trees.</p>

<p>During the Late Bronze Age, people began to build strong forts on hill tops which could be easily defended. The hill forts helped people to look over the surrounding area easily.</p>	<p>Potatoes were introduced into Ireland in the sixteenth century. By the nineteenth century they were a very important crop.</p>	<p>Peat is a soil that is made up of the remains of dead plants which have pressed on top of each other in waterlogged places for thousands of years.</p>
<p>Copper was mined in many places in Ireland.</p>	<p>Potatoes can grow on poor or boggy land.</p>	<p>People may have buried objects in hoards to keep them safe from their enemies or as part of a ritual.</p>
<p>Rivers and lakes appear to have been important places to people in the Late Bronze Age. They may have had ceremonies or rituals in these places and left items that were important to them.</p>	<p>During the Bronze Age people may have used spears as weapons and for hunting animals. Decorated spears may have been used as offerings or given as gifts to important people.</p>	<p>Areas where peat is found are called peatlands or bogs. Some bogs in Ireland were once lakes or very marshy places.</p>