

Journey into the Iron Age with Ellie the Elephant

Step back in time—discover how life changed when iron arrived in Britain!

- **Why did people build hillforts?** These large, circular settlements were built on high ground to help protect the community from enemies and to show power.
- **What was a roundhouse?** Most families lived in roundhouses made of wattle and daub walls with a thatched roof, usually featuring a central fire for cooking and warmth.
- **How did they farm?** They used heavy iron-tipped ploughs pulled by oxen, which made it easier to turn over the tough soil to grow crops like wheat and barley.
- **What was the role of trade?** Iron Age tribes traded goods like salt, grain, and beautiful metal jewellery with each other and even with people across the sea.
- **How did they dress?** People often wore clothes made from wool or linen, dyed with natural colours like yellow from weld or blue from woad plants.

Did you know? Did you know? Iron Age people were expert metalworkers! They discovered that heating iron ore allowed them to create stronger tools and weapons than the bronze ones used before, which helped them farm the land much more efficiently.

Key vocabulary: Hillfort · Iron · Roundhouse · Trade · Agriculture · Settlement