

Life in an Iron Age Hillfort: A Settler's Diary

Learning objective: To describe the daily life, homes, and society of people living in Britain during the Iron Age.

Imagine you are living in an Iron Age hillfort. Use your knowledge of Iron Age roundhouses, farming, and hillfort defenses to complete this diary entry. Use the word bank to help you include key historical vocabulary.

Word bank: roundhouse · hillfort · iron · wattle and daub · thatch · farming · hillside · defensive · tribe

1. My Home: Describe what your roundhouse looks like on the outside and what materials were used to build it. (3 marks)

2. The Hillfort: Why do you think our tribe chose to build our settlement on top of a steep hill? Explain the defensive benefits. (3 marks)

3. Daily Chores: What is your main job today? Describe your work involving farming, cooking, or making tools. (3 marks)

4. The Tools of the Trade: Why was the discovery of iron so important for our tribe compared to the bronze used by people before us? (3 marks)

5. Reflecting on Life: What is one thing you enjoy about living in our community, and one thing that is difficult about life in the Iron Age? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Ellie the elephant wonders how archaeologists know so much about Iron Age homes even though wood and thatch rot away. Research what 'mail-holes' are and write a short explanation of how they help us understand the shape of ancient buildings.