

The Iron Age: Life in Ancient Britain Assessment

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the Iron Age period, including societal structures, hillforts, and the transition from the Bronze Age.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed answers. Remember to use full sentences where required.

During the Iron Age, life in Britain changed significantly as people discovered how to smelt iron ore. Unlike the Bronze Age, iron tools were stronger and more durable. Communities began to live in fortified settlements known as hillforts, which were built on high ground to protect their resources and families. Society was organised into tribes, each led by a chieftain. These people were skilled farmers, metalworkers, and traders who used coins to exchange goods across the land.

Word bank: Hillfort · Roundhouse · Iron · Celts · Tribes · Agriculture · Trade · Defensive

1. Identify one major difference between Bronze Age tools and Iron Age tools. Explain why this was beneficial for farmers. (2 marks)

2. Why were Iron Age settlements often built on top of hills? Suggest two defensive reasons. (2 marks)

3. Describe the typical design of an Iron Age roundhouse. What materials were used to construct them? (2 marks)

4. How did the introduction of iron coinage change the way people lived and traded with other tribes? (2 marks)

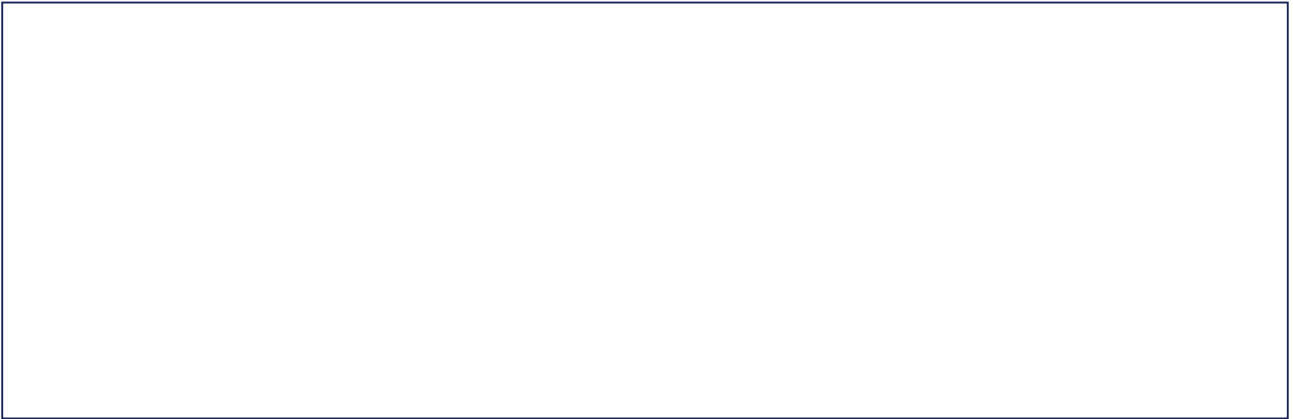
5. Explain the role of a chieftain in an Iron Age tribe. What responsibilities did they have regarding their people? (2 marks)

6. Compare and contrast the life of an Iron Age farmer with the life of a modern-day farmer. Consider tools, housing, and daily tasks. (4 marks)

7. Justify your answer: Was the invention of iron the most important development in the Iron Age? Support your argument with evidence from your studies. (4 marks)

8. Extended Writing Task: Ellie the elephant is visiting an Iron Age settlement. Write a diary entry from the perspective of an Iron Age child describing your daily chores, the food you eat, and the feeling of living inside a hillfort. (5 marks) (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of an Iron Age hillfort. Include the ramparts, the ditch, and at least three roundhouses. Label your drawing with the materials used.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: Imagine that all iron suddenly disappeared from the Iron Age. What might happen to the tribe's ability to defend themselves and farm their land? Write a persuasive argument explaining how they might adapt their lifestyle. Total: /25