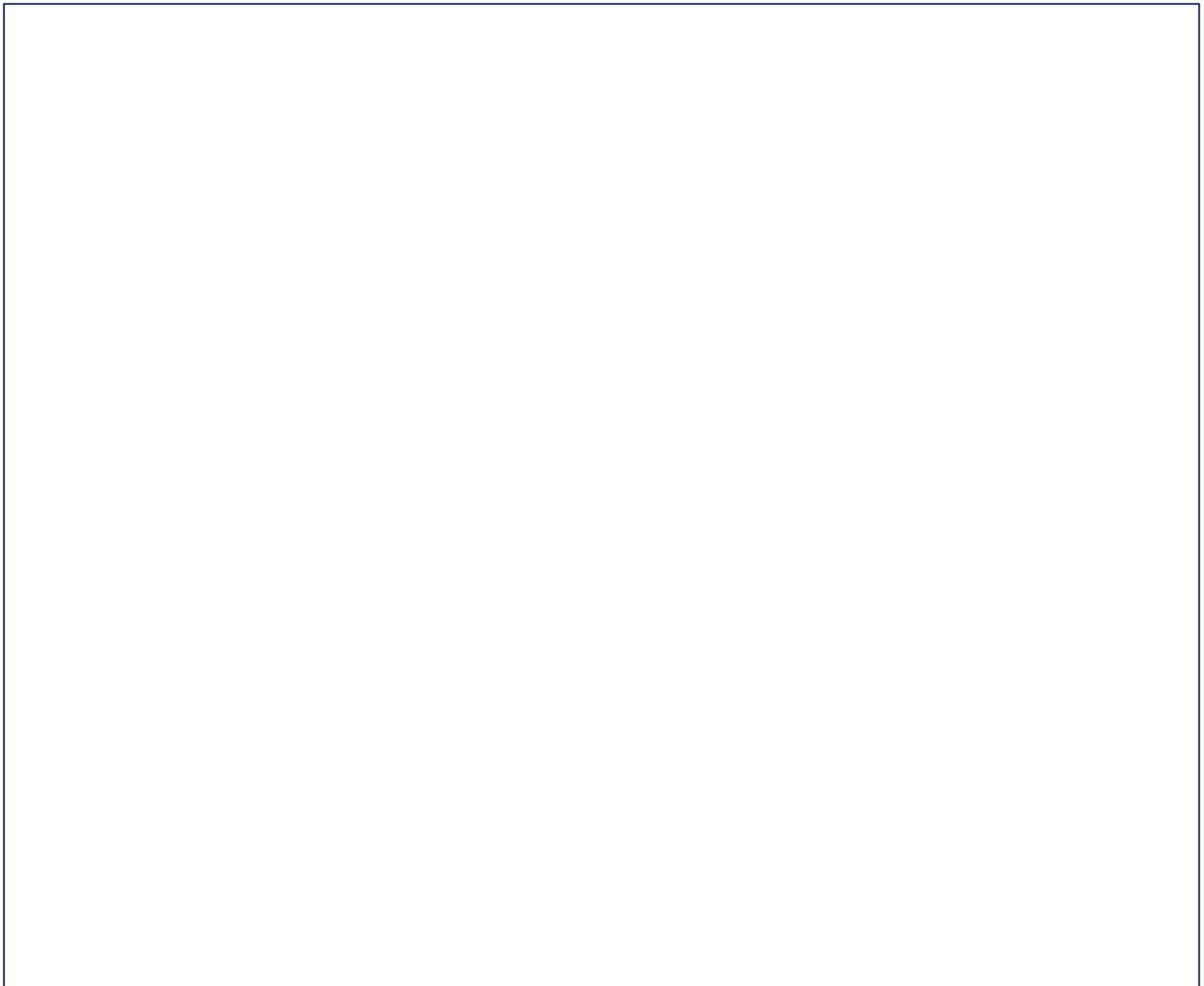


Life in an Iron Age Hillfort with Ellie

Learning objective: To identify and illustrate key features of an Iron Age hillfort, understanding how defensive structures and daily life were organised.

Use the drawing prompt to sketch your own Iron Age settlement. Once your scene is complete, use the word bank to label the specific features of your hillfort. Follow the questions to add historical detail to your diagram.

Draw: Draw a large, circular hillfort scene from an aerial perspective. Include at least three roundhouses with thatched roofs inside the perimeter. Draw a deep ditch surrounding the base of the hill and a high wooden palisade (fence) on top of the earth ramparts. Add small details like a livestock pen, a cooking fire, and Ellie the elephant standing by the gated entrance. Use a sketching style that shows the rough, natural textures of wood, earth, and straw.



Label words: roundhouse · ramparts · ditch · palisade · thatch · livestock pen

Steps:

1. Label the ramparts and the ditch on your drawing. Explain why these two features were built together.
2. Look at the roundhouses you have drawn. Why were they built with circular walls rather than square ones?

3. List two items you would find inside an Iron Age roundhouse that show how people lived.
4. Compare and contrast: How does a hillfort differ from a modern-day house in terms of security?
5. Justify your answer: Why do you think Iron Age people chose to build their settlements on top of high hills?
6. What might happen if the Iron Age tribe did not maintain the steepness of their defensive ditches?