Iron Age Explorers: Flashcards with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To recall key facts about Iron Age Britain, including hillforts, farming, and societal changes.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of the Iron Age. Read the front of the card, try to answer, then check the back!

What does Ellie the Elephant tell us about the main material used for tools and weapons in the Iron Age?

Iron: This metal replaced bronze because it was stronger and more durable for making farming tools and swords.

What is a 'Hillfort'?

A Hillfort: A defensive settlement built on high ground, often surrounded by earthworks, ditches, and wooden palisades to protect the community.

How were Iron Age homes typically shaped?

Roundhouse: Most people lived in circular houses made of wattle and daub with thatched roofs.

What was the main way Iron Age people obtained food?

Agriculture: They were skilled farmers who grew crops like wheat and barley and kept animals like cattle and sheep.

What is 'smelting'?

Smelting: The process of heating iron ore in a furnace to extract the metal, which was then hammered into shapes.

What did Iron Age people use for trade before coins were widely used?

Barter: People traded goods and services, such as grain, cattle, or metalwork, rather than using money.

Who were the tribal people living in Britain during the Iron Age?

The Celts: A collection of tribes who shared similar languages, art styles, and religious beliefs.

Why were Iron Age settlements often built on hills?

Protection: Being on a hill provided a better view of the surrounding land, making it easier to spot approaching enemies.

What is 'wattle and daub'?

Wattle and daub: A building technique using woven wooden sticks (wattle) covered in a mixture of mud, clay, and straw (daub) to create walls.

What role did hillforts play in community life?

Community Hub: They served as a place for the tribe to live, trade, store food, and retreat during times of conflict.