

## Life in the Iron Age: A Journey with Ellie

Step back in time! Explore the world of hillforts and roundhouses with Ellie the Elephant.

- The Iron Age began around 800 BC when people discovered how to smelt iron ore to make stronger tools and weapons than the bronze ones used before.
- People lived in roundhouses made of wattle and daub, usually with a thatched roof and a central fire for warmth and cooking.
- Communities often built large hillforts on high ground, protected by massive earthworks, ditches, and wooden palisades to keep their families and livestock safe.
- Iron Age farmers were very skilled; they used iron-tipped ploughs to farm the land more efficiently, growing wheat and barley to make bread and ale.
- Art and craftsmanship were important; they created beautiful jewellery and metalwork decorated with swirling, flowing patterns called Celtic art.
- Society was organised into tribes led by chieftains, and life revolved around the seasons, harvesting crops, and trading with neighbouring settlements.

*Did you know? Did you know? Iron Age people used 'currency bars'—long, iron rods shaped like swords—to trade for goods, as they did not have coins for most of the period!*

**Key vocabulary:** Hillfort · Roundhouse · Celts · Smelting · Iron · Currency