

Iron Age Explorers: Flashcard Challenge

Learning objective: To recall and evaluate key features of Iron Age Britain, including hillforts, farming, and societal changes.

Use these cards to test your knowledge of life during the Iron Age. Read the front of the card, attempt the answer, then check the back to see how well you did!

What does the term 'Iron Age' refer to?

It is the period of history when people began to make tools, weapons, and jewellery from iron instead of bronze.

What was the main purpose of an Iron Age hillfort?

Hillforts were fortified settlements built on high ground, used for protection, as a place to store food, and as a centre for the community.

Describe the typical design of an Iron Age home.

Roundhouses were circular buildings made from wood and wattle-and-daub, with a conical thatched roof and a central fire for warmth and cooking.

Who were the Celts?

The Celts were the groups of people living across Britain during the Iron Age who shared similar languages, art styles, and religious beliefs.

How did Iron Age farmers improve their food production?

They used stronger iron ploughs to turn heavy soil, which allowed them to grow more crops like wheat and barley.

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

They often used 'barter', which is the exchange of goods (like cattle, grain, or salt) for other items they needed.

Why were Iron Age people often buried with their belongings?

It suggests they believed in an afterlife where they might need their tools, jewellery, or weapons again.

What was the main role of the tribal chief?

The chief led the tribe, made decisions about war and peace, and managed resources for the people.

How did Iron Age art differ from earlier periods?

It often featured intricate, swirling 'La Tène' patterns, which were used to decorate bronze mirrors, sword scabbards, and jewellery.

What are 'wattle and daub'?

Wattle is a woven lattice of wooden strips, and daub is a sticky mixture of mud, clay, and straw used to cover walls.

What might happen to a tribe if their hillfort's grain supply was destroyed?

The tribe would face starvation during winter months, making them vulnerable to raids or forcing them to migrate elsewhere.

Compare and contrast living in an Iron Age village versus a modern town.

Iron Age villages were self-sufficient and circular with communal living; modern towns are much larger, rely on global trade, and use electricity and complex technology.