

Life in the Iron Age: Sorting the Settlement

Learning objective: To understand the daily life, social structure, and technological advancements of the British Iron Age.

Ellie the elephant has been studying the history of Iron Age Britain. She has found a list of items and features from the era, but they are all mixed up! Your task is to sort the items into three categories: 'Hillfort Defence', 'Daily Life & Farming', and 'Crafts & Technology'. Write the name of each item under the correct heading.

Word bank: Roundhouses · Iron ploughs · Protective ditches · Hilltop position · Loom weights · Grain storage pits · Spinning wool · Stone ramparts · Decorative jewellery · Woven baskets

1. 1. Create three columns on your paper: 'Hillfort Defence', 'Daily Life & Farming', and 'Crafts & Technology'. Sort the items from the word bank into these categories. (6 marks)

2. 2. Why do you think Iron Age people chose to build their homes on the tops of hills? Use evidence from the 'Hillfort Defence' category to support your answer. (2 marks)

3. 3. The invention of the iron plough changed farming significantly. How might this have helped a community survive through the winter? (2 marks)

4. 4. If you lived in an Iron Age roundhouse, why would a central fire be important for both cooking and social life? (2 marks)

5. 5. Ellie the elephant found a broken clay pot. Based on your knowledge of Iron Age crafts, what materials might they have used to decorate it? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of an Iron Age roundhouse. Show the central fire, the thatched roof, and the way the wattle and daub walls are constructed.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an Iron Age trader. Write a short diary entry (50-80 words) describing what you are taking to the local market to trade and what you hope to receive in return. Remember to mention at least one item from the 'Crafts & Technology' category.