

Social Studies / History Assessment: Life in the Iron Age

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of Iron Age society, settlements, and the transition from the Bronze Age.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide clear and accurate answers. Write in full sentences where required.

Ellie the elephant has been reading ancient scrolls about the Iron Age in Britain (c. 800 BC – 43 AD). During this time, people moved away from using bronze to using iron for tools and weapons, which were much stronger. They lived in organised tribal groups, built defensive hillforts, and lived in roundhouses. Farming became more efficient, allowing communities to grow and trade with one another across the country.

Word bank: Hillfort · Roundhouse · Iron · Celts · Trade · Wattle and daub · Agriculture · Tribes

1. Identify one major difference between Bronze Age tools and Iron Age tools. (2 marks)

2. Describe the construction of a typical Iron Age roundhouse. What materials were used for the walls? (3 marks)

3. Why did Iron Age people choose to build their settlements on top of hills? (3 marks)

4. Explain how the introduction of the iron-tipped plough changed farming for Iron Age families. (4 marks)

5. Name two items that Iron Age tribes might have traded with other groups. (2 marks)

6. Compare life in an Iron Age village to life in a modern town. Discuss two similarities or differences. (6 marks)

7. Imagine you are a member of a local tribe. Write a short diary entry (5 sentences) describing your daily chores and your role within the tribe. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of an Iron Age roundhouse, labelling the central fire pit and the wattle and daub walls.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Research task: Find out one reason why the arrival of the Romans in 43 AD changed the way people lived in Britain.