Life in an Iron Age Hillfort: A Historical Report

Learning objective: To describe the daily life, homes, and innovations of people living in Britain during the Iron Age.

Use this scaffold to structure your historical report. Think about how the discovery of iron changed how people lived compared to the Bronze Age. Ellie the Elephant says: 'Remember to use your best historical vocabulary!'

The Iron Age in Britain, beginning around 800 BC, marked a significant shift in technology and daily life as communities began to harness the power of iron.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · roundhouse · hillfort · smelting · archaeological evidence · in addition to · subsistence farming · defensive · notably

1. Introduction: Define the Iron Age and explain how the invention of iron tools changed society. Start with: The Iron Age was a time of great change because... (2 marks)

2. Living Arrangements: Describe the structure of an Iron Age roundhouse. Start with: Most people lived in roundhouses, which were constructed using... (2 marks)

3. Hillforts: Explain why people chose to build their settlements on hills. Start with: Hillforts were essential for protection; they often included features such as... (2 marks)

4. Daily Life and Farming: What tasks did people perform to survive? Start with: Daily life involved a range of activities, for example... (2 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise why the Iron Age was a pivotal period in British history. Start with: In conclusion, the Iron Age shaped the future of Britain by... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an Iron Age trader. Write a short diary entry describing the items you are taking to the market to trade for an iron axe, including prices in your own barter system.