

Ellie's Iron Age Investigator Fact-File

Learning objective: To analyse and record key features of life in Britain during the Iron Age, including hillforts, social structure, and technological advancements.

Use your knowledge of the Iron Age to complete the sections below. Think like an archaeologist: use precise vocabulary and explain the reasons behind how people lived during this time. Ensure your descriptions reflect the shift from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age.

Word bank: Hillfort · Roundhouse · Iron smelting · Trade · Celtic · Defences · Tribes · Agriculture · Craftsmanship

1. The Iron Age Hillfort: Explain why Iron Age people chose to build their settlements on high ground and describe the defensive features they might have added. (3 marks)

2. Daily Life in a Roundhouse: Compare and contrast the materials used to construct a typical Iron Age roundhouse with a modern home. (3 marks)

3. The Impact of Iron: Justify why the discovery of iron smelting was a significant turning point for farming and tool-making compared to previous eras. (3 marks)

4. Social Structure: Describe the role of a tribal chieftain and explain how power was organised within an Iron Age community. (2 marks)

5. Art and Culture: Describe the types of patterns and materials used in Iron Age jewellery and metalwork. Why were these items highly valued? (3 marks)

6. Critical Thinking: What might happen to a tribe if they were unable to trade their goods, such as salt or grain, with neighbouring settlements? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an Iron Age craftsperson. Write a persuasive diary entry explaining why your new iron plough is superior to the older wooden or bronze versions, and how it will improve the harvest for your tribe.