

Life in the Iron Age: A Report by Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To write an informative report about daily life, hillforts, and technology during the British Iron Age.

Use this scaffold to organise your report. Remember to use formal, descriptive language as you describe how people lived, worked, and defended their settlements.

The Iron Age was a fascinating period in British history, marking a time of great change when iron replaced bronze for tools and weapons.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · hillfort · roundhouse · smelting · defensive · iron ore · in addition to · civilisation · archaeological evidence · nevertheless · significantly

1. Introduction: What were the main differences between the Bronze Age and the Iron Age? Start by saying: The transition to the Iron Age brought significant changes because... (2 marks)

2. Hillforts: Why did Iron Age people choose to build their settlements on high ground? Explain using: Defensive structures were vital because... (2 marks)

3. Daily Life: Describe the layout and construction of an Iron Age roundhouse. Start by saying: Within the village, families lived in roundhouses made from... (2 marks)

4. Technology and Craft: Compare the importance of iron compared to previous materials. Justify your answer by saying: Iron was a revolutionary material for the Iron Age people because... (3 marks)

5. Social Structure: What might happen if a tribe was threatened by invaders? Explain by saying: In times of danger, the tribe would look to their leader to... (3 marks)

6. Conclusion: Compare and contrast Iron Age life with our lives today. Start by saying: Although our technology has advanced, we can still learn about the past by... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an archaeologist who has just discovered a hidden Iron Age site. Write a formal letter to a museum curator justifying why this site is of great historical importance. Use at least three technical terms from the word bank and explain how the artefacts found might change our understanding of Iron Age trade routes.