

Life in an Iron Age Hillfort with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand the layout and features of an Iron Age hillfort and the daily life of the people who lived there.

Use your knowledge of the Iron Age to create a detailed scene of a hillfort. Refer to the word bank to ensure you include key structural features. You can draw this from a 'bird's-eye view' or as a landscape from the ground.

Draw: Draw a large circular Iron Age hillfort. Include a tall wooden fence (palisade) surrounding the site, with a deep ditch and steep earth mounds (ramparts) outside it. Inside the walls, draw at least three roundhouses with thatched roofs. Include a small area for a grain store raised on stilts. Use a natural, earthy style with plenty of green hills and grey stone textures.



Label words: Roundhouse · Ramparts · Ditch · Palisade · Grain store · Defensive entrance

Steps:

1. Label your drawing to show where the 'ramparts' and 'ditch' are located. Why were these features important for protection?
2. Draw a roundhouse in your scene. What materials would the Iron Age people have used to build the walls and the roof?

3. Why did people in the Iron Age choose to build their settlements on high ground (hills)?
4. If a farmer wanted to sell wheat at the settlement, he might charge £2 per sack. If he sold 5 sacks, how much money would he make in total?
5. List two activities that might be happening inside the hillfort during the day.