

The Iron Age: Life and Legacy Assessment

Learning objective: To evaluate understanding of the Iron Age period, including hillforts, societal structure, and technological advancements.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed, accurate answers. For longer responses, ensure you justify your reasoning using evidence from the period.

Ellie the elephant has been studying the transition from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age. She notes that around 800 BC, people in Britain began to use iron instead of bronze for tools and weapons. These communities lived in structured tribes, often led by powerful chieftains, and built impressive settlements on high ground.

Word bank: Hillfort · Celts · Iron smelting · Roundhouse · Tribes · Defensive · Agriculture · Trade

1. Identify two reasons why an Iron Age tribe might choose to build their settlement on the top of a hill. (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. Explain why the discovery of iron smelting technology was a significant turning point for Iron Age agriculture. (3 marks) (3 marks)

3. Describe the typical design of an Iron Age roundhouse. Why were these materials chosen? (3 marks) (3 marks)

4. Compare the social structure of an Iron Age tribe to a modern community. What are the key differences in how decisions are made? (4 marks) (4 marks)

5. Justify why historians classify the Iron Age as a time of increased conflict compared to the Bronze Age. (4 marks) (4 marks)

6. What might happen to a tribe's economy if they were unable to trade with neighbouring tribes or continental Europe? (4 marks) (4 marks)

7. Imagine you are an Iron Age craftsperson. Write a 5-mark diary entry explaining your day. You must include references to iron tools, the local environment, and your role within the tribe. (5 marks) (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of a hillfort, clearly labelling the defensive features such as the ramparts, ditches, and the central roundhouses.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension Task: Research the 'Lindow Man' or similar bog bodies. Explain how these archaeological finds change our understanding of Iron Age religious beliefs and social rituals. Present your findings as a short historical report.