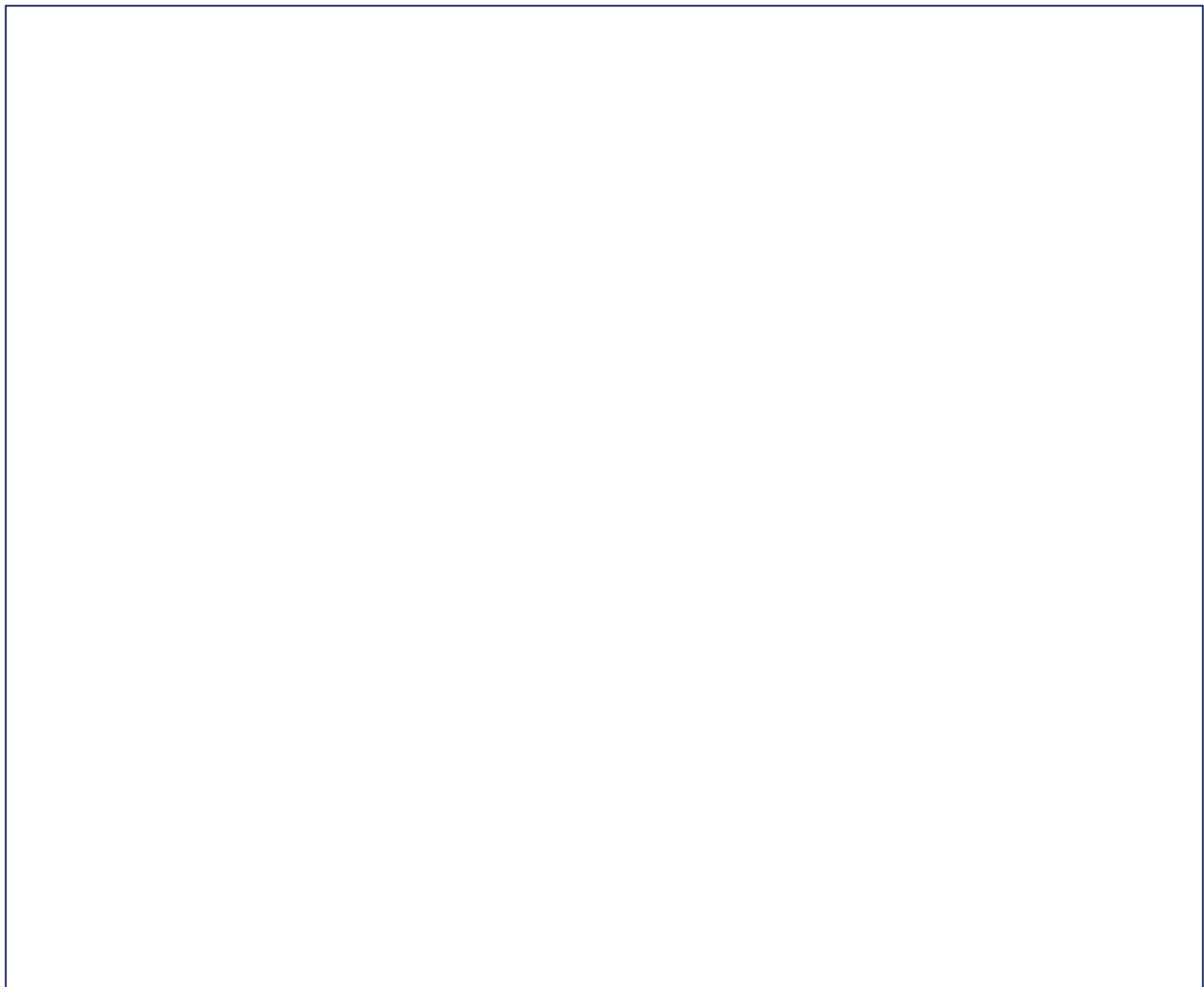


Life in an Iron Age Hillfort with Ellie

Learning objective: To identify and illustrate key structural features and daily activities associated with a British Iron Age hillfort.

Follow the drawing prompt to create your own Iron Age settlement. Use the word bank to label the specific features of your drawing. Ensure your sketch reflects the defensive nature of the site and the way people lived during this period.

Draw: Draw a panoramic view of an Iron Age hillfort. Include a central area with at least three roundhouses with thatched roofs. Surround the settlement with a 'v' shaped ditch and a large earthen rampart. Add a wooden palisade along the top of the rampart. In the foreground, draw a small grain storage pit and a family working with simple iron tools. Use a detailed, historical sketch style, focusing on textures like woven wattle, thatched straw, and earthworks.



Label words: Roundhouse · Rampart · Ditch · Palisade · Thatch roof · Grain storage pit · Roundwood timber · Defensive gateway

Steps:

1. Explain why Iron Age people chose to build their settlements on the tops of hills rather than in the flat valleys.

2. Compare and contrast a roundhouse with a modern-day house. What are the main differences in construction materials?
3. Label your drawing to show which part of the hillfort was designed for defence and which part was for daily living.
4. Justify your answer: Why was a grain storage pit essential for a community living in a hillfort during winter?
5. What might happen if the ramparts were not maintained? Describe the potential consequences for the people living inside.
6. Based on your drawing, describe one way the environment influenced the design of the Iron Age home.