

Iron Age Explorers with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To understand the key characteristics, societal changes, and defensive structures of the Iron Age in Britain.

Read the front of each card and test your knowledge of Iron Age Britain. Use these for revision or play a matching game with a partner.

What is a hillfort?

A fortified settlement built on the top of a hill, surrounded by ditches and ramparts for protection.

Why was iron a significant improvement over bronze?

Iron was stronger, more durable, and more abundant, allowing for better tools and weapons.

Explain the term 'wattle and daub'.

A building technique using woven wooden strips (wattle) covered in a mixture of mud, clay, and straw (daub).

What was the purpose of a quern stone?

A pair of heavy stones used by hand to grind grain into flour for bread.

Describe the social structure of the Iron Age.

People lived in tribal groups led by a chieftain, often competing for land and resources.

What were earthworks?

Massive defensive structures made of piled-up soil and stone, often forming deep ditches around a hillfort.

Define the practice of bartering.

The exchange of goods or services for other items without using money, as currency was not used in Iron Age Britain.

What is smelting?

The process of heating iron ore to a high temperature to extract the metal from the rock.

Compare a roundhouse to a modern home.

Roundhouses were circular, single-roomed, and featured a central hearth; modern homes are typically rectangular with multiple rooms and different heating systems.

Who were the Celts?

The group of tribes that inhabited Britain during the Iron Age, known for their unique art, jewellery, and craftsmanship.