

Iron Age Investigator: A Historical Fact-File

Learning objective: To analyse and synthesise knowledge about Iron Age life in Britain, specifically focusing on social structure, technology, and hillfort settlements.

Use your textbook and historical research sources to complete this fact-file. Ellie the elephant reminds you to look for evidence before you write your conclusions. Ensure your responses are detailed and use specific historical terminology.

Word bank: Hillfort · Roundhouse · Smelting · Tribes · Celtic · Agriculture · Defence · Societal hierarchy · Iron metallurgy

1. Settlement Patterns: Describe the typical features of an Iron Age hillfort. Explain why these locations were chosen strategically. (4 marks)

2. Technological Advancements: Compare the use of iron with the bronze used in the previous era. Why was iron a 'game-changer' for farming and warfare? (4 marks)

3. Societal Structure: Based on archaeological evidence, what can we infer about the hierarchy within an Iron Age tribe? (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: If you were living in Britain during the Iron Age, would life have been safer inside or outside of a hillfort? Use evidence to support your choice. (5 marks)

5. Compare and contrast: How did the daily life of an Iron Age farmer differ from the life of a craftsperson, such as a blacksmith or weaver? (4 marks)

6. What might happen if: Imagine an Iron Age tribe suddenly lost access to iron ore. Describe the potential impact on their trade, food security, and defence. (5 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a 'Museum Exhibit' placard for an Iron Age artefact. Write a persuasive paragraph explaining why this specific object is the most significant discovery for understanding Iron Age culture.