

Life in the Iron Age: A Historical Report

Learning objective: To write a structured historical report about life in Britain during the Iron Age, focusing on hillforts, farming, and societal changes.

Use this scaffold to organise your research. Ensure you use formal, historical language and include evidence to support your descriptions of daily life.

As the Bronze Age faded into history, the arrival of iron tools and weapons transformed the landscape of Britain, leading to the development of complex, fortified societies known as hillforts.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · archaeological evidence · in addition to · significant · fortified · subsistence · social hierarchy · however · nevertheless · civilisation

1. Introduction: What were the primary differences between the Bronze Age and the Iron Age, and why was the discovery of iron smelting so revolutionary? Start by saying: The transition to the Iron Age marked a period of rapid technological advancement... (3 marks)

2. Hillfort Living: Describe the structure and purpose of a hillfort. Explain why these settlements were strategically built on high ground. Start by saying: Hillforts served as the heart of tribal life, acting as both a defensive stronghold and a centre for trade... (3 marks)

3. Daily Life and Farming: Compare the methods of farming used in the Iron Age to those of previous eras. How did they manage to support their communities? Start by saying: Sustaining a community required sophisticated agricultural practices, including... (4 marks)

4. Social Hierarchy: Discuss the roles within an Iron Age tribe. Who held power and how was society organised? Start by saying: Iron Age society was structured in a hierarchical manner, with tribal leaders and warriors holding significant influence over... (3 marks)

5. Art and Culture: Justify why Iron Age art, such as intricate metalwork, is important for historians today. Start by saying: Beyond survival, Iron Age people expressed their cultural identity through distinct artistic styles, particularly in... (3 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise the legacy of the Iron Age. What might have happened to these communities if the technology for iron production had never been discovered? Start by saying: In conclusion, the Iron Age shaped the foundations of British history by... (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the defensive features of an Iron Age hillfort with a modern-day home. Justify your answer by explaining how the purpose of 'home' has changed over the last 2,000 years. If you were an archaeologist discovering a cache of Iron Age coins today, how would you interpret their significance in relation to trade networks?