

Year 5 History Assessment: The Stone Age to the Iron Age

Learning objective: To assess pupils' understanding of the chronological changes, technological advancements, and lifestyle shifts from the Palaeolithic to the Iron Age.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed, accurate answers. Ensure your writing is clear and logical.

Ellie the elephant has been studying the way humans changed over time. She noticed that life in the Palaeolithic period was vastly different to life in the Iron Age. As tools improved from simple knapped flints to smelted metals, the way humans lived, farmed, and protected their communities evolved significantly.

Word bank: Palaeolithic · Mesolithic · Neolithic · Bronze Age · Iron Age · Hunter-gatherer · Agriculture · Settlement · Hillfort · Archaeology

1. Identify one key difference between the diet of a Palaeolithic hunter-gatherer and a Neolithic farmer. (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. Explain why the invention of the wheel was significant for the development of early settlements. (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the housing styles of the Mesolithic period with those of the Iron Age. Why did these changes occur? (4 marks) (4 marks)

4. Justify why the Iron Age is often referred to as a time of increased conflict and defensive living compared to the Neolithic period. (4 marks) (4 marks)

5. What might happen to a community's social structure if they stopped migrating and began to store surplus food? (4 marks) (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing Task: Imagine you are an archaeologist who has just discovered a site containing both stone tools and bronze jewellery. Write a report (approx. 100 words) explaining what this suggests about the transition between these time periods and the people who lived there. (5 marks) (5 marks)

7. List two pieces of evidence that archaeologists use to learn about life in the Stone Age. (4 marks) (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram showing the progression of tool development from a simple hand-axe to an Iron Age spearhead, labelling the materials used for each.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension: Research the Skara Brae settlement. Create a persuasive poster explaining why this site is crucial for our understanding of Neolithic life in Britain. Justify your points using at least three specific historical facts.