Iron Age Life: Sorting the Evidence

Learning objective: To identify and categorise the key features of daily life, technology, and social structure during the Iron Age in Britain.

Ellie the elephant has found a collection of historical clues from an Iron Age hillfort. Read each statement below and sort them into two categories: 'Daily Life & Farming' or 'Hillfort Defence & Society'. Write the category next to each statement and explain why you chose it.

Word bank: Hillfort · Roundhouse · Iron smelting · Ramparts · Subsistence farming · Trade · Tribal leaders · Weaving

1. People lived in circular houses made of wattle and daub with thatched roofs. (2 marks)

2. Large earthworks and deep ditches were dug around the settlement to protect the community. (2 marks)

3. Farmers used iron-tipped ploughs to grow crops like wheat and barley. (2 marks)

4. High-status warriors and kings ruled over specific tribal territories. (2 marks)

5. Craftspeople used looms to weave wool into colourful fabric for clothing. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of an Iron Age hillfort. Include the ramparts (banks), the defensive ditches, and a few roundhouses inside the protected area.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an Iron Age trader. Write a short diary entry describing what items you might trade with another tribe to get iron tools, and what price you might pay in goods or grain.