Life in an Iron Age Roundhouse

Learning objective: To understand the structure and daily life within an Iron Age hillfort settlement.

Use your knowledge of Iron Age Britain to illustrate the interior and exterior of a typical roundhouse. Follow the steps below to label your drawing and ensure you include the key features of the period.

Draw: Draw a detailed scene of an Iron Age roundhouse. The style should be a clear, labelled archaeological reconstruction. Include a conical thatched roof, walls made of wattle and daub (woven sticks covered in mud/clay), and a small, low entrance. Inside, show a central stone-lined hearth with smoke rising towards a small hole in the roof. Include items like a vertical loom for weaving cloth and clay pots for storage.

Label words: Thatch · Wattle and daub · Central hearth · Hillfort · Roundhouse · Loom · Grain storage

Steps:

1. What materials were used to make the walls of an Iron Age roundhouse, and why were they effective?
2. Step 1: Draw a cross-section of a roundhouse showing the central hearth and the sleeping areas near the walls.
3. Step 2: Label the thatched roof and the wattle and daub walls on your drawing.
4. Step 3: Draw a representation of a grain storage pit or a loom inside the roundhouse.
5. Why were many Iron Age settlements built on high ground as hillforts?