Year 6 History Assessment: The Stone Age to Iron Age

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of the changes in human life from the Palaeolithic to the Iron Age, including shifts in settlement, technology, and farming.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed answers. Remember to use full sentences where required.

Ellie the elephant has been studying the timeline of early Britain. She notes that for thousands of years, people lived as nomads, moving constantly to find food. As the climate warmed and technology improved, people began to settle in one place, domesticate animals, and grow crops. By the time the Iron Age arrived, people were building complex homes and protective hillforts to defend their communities.

Word bank: Palaeolithic · Mesolithic · Neolithic · Hunter-gatherer · Agriculture · Settlement · Hillfort · Bronze · Iron · Skara Brae

1. Identify one key difference between the lives of people in the Palaeolithic era and the Neolithic era. (2 marks)

2. What is the significance of the archaeological site 'Skara Brae' in Scotland? Explain what it tells us about Neolithic life. (3 marks)

3. Describe two ways in which the invention of metalworking (Bronze and Iron) changed the way people lived. (4 marks)

4. Why did Iron Age people choose to build hillforts? Mention both defensive and social reasons. (4 marks)

5. Max the monkey is looking at a set of tools found in a dig site. One is a sharp flint scraper, and one is an iron sickle. Explain how these tools represent the shift from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing: Imagine you are living in a settlement at the end of the Iron Age. Write a diary entry describing your daily life. Include details about your home, the food you eat, and the jobs you do to help your community survive. (5 marks) (8 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of an Iron Age roundhouse, showing at least three features such as the wattle and daub walls, the thatched roof, and the central hearth.

Extension challenge: Total: /25