

Life in the Iron Age: A Social Studies / History Assessment

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of life in Britain during the Iron Age, including hillforts, farming, and daily life.

Read each question carefully before writing your answer. Use your historical knowledge to provide clear and accurate information. You have 45 minutes to complete this assessment.

Ellie the elephant has been studying how people lived in Britain about 2,500 years ago. During the Iron Age, people moved away from using bronze tools and began using iron, which was much stronger. They lived in large groups called tribes and built tall, circular homes with thatched roofs. To stay safe from other tribes, they built large settlements on the tops of hills, surrounded by deep ditches and high banks.

Word bank: Hillfort · Iron · Roundhouse · Trade · Farming · Weaving · Defences · Tribes

1. Why did Iron Age people choose to build their homes on top of hills? Mention one specific feature they used for protection. (2 marks)

2. What were the main homes of the Iron Age called, and what materials were they commonly made from? (2 marks)

3. Explain why iron was a more useful material than bronze for making tools and weapons. (2 marks)

4. Describe two jobs that people in an Iron Age village might have done every day to survive. (4 marks)

5. How did Iron Age tribes trade with each other? Give an example of what they might have swapped. (2 marks)

6. Compare an Iron Age hillfort to a modern-day house. List two ways they are similar or different. (4 marks)

7. Imagine you are a person living in an Iron Age tribe. Write a short diary entry (5 sentences) describing your daily life. Include details about your home, your food, and your work. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of an Iron Age roundhouse. Make sure to label the thatched roof and the central fire pit.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Research task: Find out what kind of clothes Iron Age people wore and how they made them using wool.