My Iron Age Settlement Field Report

Learning objective: To describe the features of an Iron Age hillfort and understand how people lived during this period.

Imagine you are an archaeologist working with Ellie the elephant to uncover the secrets of the Iron Age. Use your historical knowledge to fill in this report about a typical hillfort settlement.

Word bank: roundhouse · hillfort · ramparts · ditch · iron · farming · tribes · wattle and daub

1. The Hillfort: Describe how the people in the Iron Age protected their homes. Think about the earthworks they built. (2 marks)

2. Life in a Roundhouse: Describe the materials used to build a home and what it might have been like inside. (3 marks)

3. Daily Jobs: List two jobs a person living in the Iron Age might have done to help their family survive. (2 marks)

4. The Iron Age Advantage: Why was the discovery of iron such an important change for the people living then? (3 marks)

5. Archaeological Clue: If you were digging in the ground, what is one object you might hope to find to prove people lived there? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a bird's-eye view of an Iron Age hillfort. Make sure to include the roundhouses, the surrounding ditches, and the tall wooden fences (palisades).

Extension challenge: Research what Iron Age people ate. Write a short menu for an Iron Age feast using only ingredients that would have been available in Britain at the time.