Life in the Iron Age: A Historical Report

Learning objective: To write a structured historical report exploring the daily life, settlements, and innovations of people living in Britain during the Iron Age.

Use the prompts below to build your report. Ellie the elephant has provided some key themes to help you structure your writing. Remember to use formal, objective language appropriate for a historical account.

The Iron Age in Britain, spanning from approximately 800 BC to the Roman invasion in 43 AD, was a period of significant social and technological transformation.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · archaeological evidence · in contrast · significantly · hillfort · roundhouse · social hierarchy · metallurgy · subsequently

1. Settlement Patterns: Describe the design and purpose of a typical Iron Age hillfort. Start your paragraph with: 'To ensure protection and control over the local territory, Iron Age communities constructed...' (3 marks)

2. Domestic Life: Explain the structure of an Iron Age roundhouse. Start your paragraph with: 'Daily life centred around the roundhouse, which was typically built using...' (3 marks)

3. Technological Advancements: Discuss the importance of iron in this period. Start your paragraph with: 'The transition from the Bronze Age was marked by the mastery of iron, which allowed for...' (3 marks)

4. Social Structure: How was Iron Age society organised? Start your paragraph with: 'Archaeological evidence suggests that Iron Age society was hierarchical, with power often held by...' (3 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise the legacy of the Iron Age. Start your paragraph with: 'In conclusion, the Iron Age left a lasting impact on Britain because...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a specific Iron Age artefact, such as a La Tène style brooch or a piece of currency bar, and write a short paragraph explaining what this object tells us about the craftsmanship and trade networks of the time.