Grade 5 History Assessment: Life in the Iron Age

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of Iron Age society, hillforts, and the transition from the Bronze Age.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide clear and accurate answers. Ensure you check your spelling and punctuation.

Ellie the elephant has been studying the Iron Age. She discovered that around 800 BC, people in Britain began using iron to make tools and weapons. This was a significant change from the Bronze Age. People lived in small tribal groups, often building protected settlements on high ground to keep their families and livestock safe. They were skilled farmers and metalworkers, trading goods with people from across the sea.

Word bank: Hillfort · Roundhouse · Iron · Trade · Celts · Tribes · Agriculture · Smelting

1. Identify one major difference between the tools used in the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. Why did Iron Age people choose to build their settlements as 'hillforts'? Provide two reasons. (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Describe the typical design of an Iron Age roundhouse. What materials were commonly used to build them? (3 marks) (3 marks)

4. Explain how trade helped Iron Age tribes grow and develop. (3 marks) (3 marks)

5. Max the monkey says that Iron Age people were not as 'clever' as people today because they didn't have computers. Write a short paragraph explaining why this is incorrect, focusing on their skills in farming, metalwork, or construction. (5 marks) (5 marks)

6. If you were a trader in the Iron Age, name two items you might sell to another tribe and explain what you might receive in exchange. (4 marks) (4 marks)

7. What does the term 'smelting' mean in the context of iron production? (6 marks) (6 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of an Iron Age hillfort. Include the defensive ditches, the ramparts, and a few roundhouses inside the walls.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a tribal leader in the Iron Age. Write a 100-word diary entry about a day spent preparing for the winter harvest. Total: /25