

The Iron Age

Key vocabulary

hillfort – a hill top earthwork of defensive banks and ditches

rampart – a defensive wall of stone or earth

palisade – a fence made of sharpened wooden stakes fixed to the top of ramparts

smelting – melting rock to extract metal, like iron

Celts – groups who lived in North West Europe during the Iron Age

siege – surrounding a settlement and cutting off essential supplies

inscription – words written on or cut into something

barter – exchanging goods and services without using money

hoard – a stock or store of money or valued objects

votive – objects made as offerings as part of a religious ceremony

artefact – an historic objects made by or belonging to a human being

settlement – a place where a community of people live

tribe – a group of people who live and work together

chronology – arranging historical events in their correct time order

staters – coins made from gold and silver by Iron Age tribes

Important Artefacts



hillfort



roundhouse



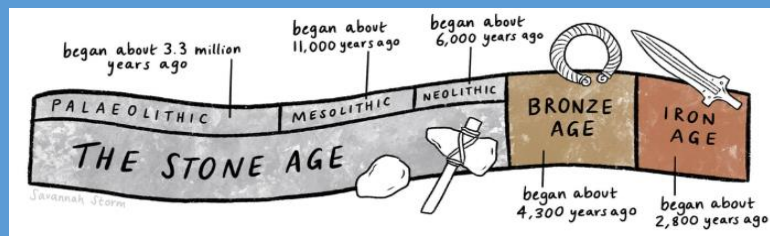
staters



an iron arrowhead

When was the Iron Age?

- Historians use artefacts as evidence as there is no written history yet – this time is still part of prehistory.
- 800 BC: First hillforts appear in Britain.
- 120 BC: First currency coins introduced to Britain.
- 43 AD: Britain becomes part of the Roman Empire.



What is a hillfort and why were they important?

- People lived in settlements on hillforts to protect themselves and their stores of food from attack.
- Hillforts had steep mounds of earth for walls, called ramparts, to keep other tribes out.
- At the top of a hillfort was a flatter bit of land where people would live or bury their valuable possessions.

How was Iron made and how did it change life in Britain?

- Smelting was a process used to make iron.
- It involved melting rocks to extract metal.
- Iron was much stronger than Bronze so it was useful for making tools, weapons, armour and other items.

What are staters and why were they important?

- Staters were coins made from gold and silver.
- Some staters have been found with inscriptions written in them – the oldest evidence of writing in Britain!
- Iron Age people buried their most valuable possessions, like staters, to keep them safe.

Who is Boudica?

- Queen Boudica, who was the Queen of the Celtic Iceni Tribe, fought the Romans when they invaded Britain at the end of the Iron Age.

Important People I will learn more about



Boudica, Queen of the Celtic Iceni Tribe