

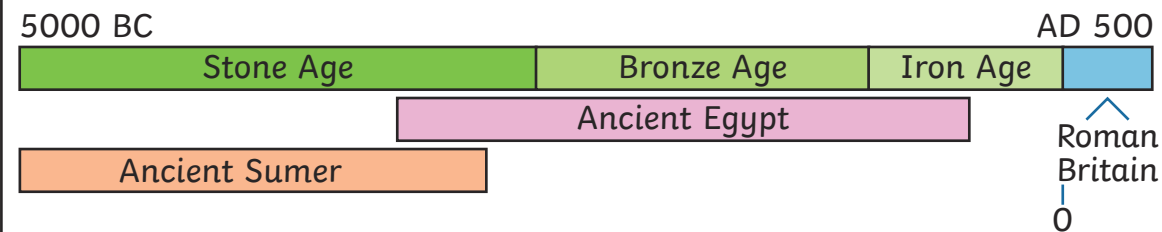
Key Vocabulary

prehistoric	A time before historical records began.
archaeologist	A person who studies human history through looking at artefacts and other remains.
Celts	The name given to people who lived in Europe during the Iron Age.
hillfort	A defended settlement built on hilltops.
wattle and daub	A mixture of animal dung, clay and straw.
bronze	A type of metal made from copper and tin to make it harder and more durable.

The Iron Age in Britain started around 800 BC. It followed the **Bronze** Age after iron began to be used for making weapons and tools — it was stronger than **bronze** and easier to work with. The Iron Age continued in Britain for about 800 years until the Romans invaded in AD 43.



Timeline



Hillforts

The Iron Age people lived in farming communities in **hillforts**. These **hillforts** allowed hundreds of people to live together in a village where they could live off the land.

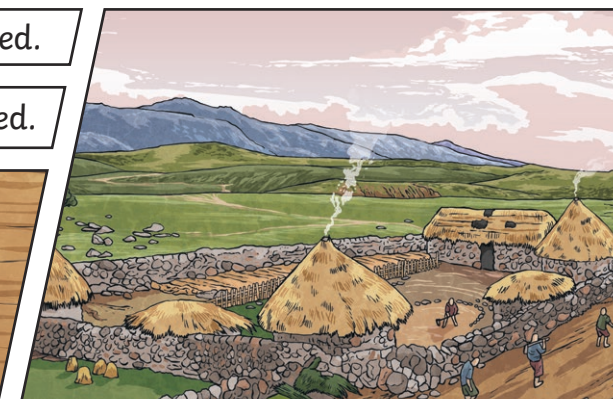


Crops such as barley, oats and wheat were grown.

Cows, pigs, goats and sheep were farmed for milk, meat and wool.

Deer, wild boar and fish were hunted.

Berries, nuts and plants were gathered.



Warriors

Celtic warriors would have usually fought with a long sword or shield and an oval, wooden shield. They often went into battle wearing blue warpaint.



Roundhouses

Roundhouses were typical Iron Age circular houses. Some were very large, often housing lots of people living together. They had a timber frame, **wattle and daub** walls and a thatched roof. There would be a fire in the centre for cooking, light and warmth. Beds were made from hay or feather mattresses and animal skin or woollen blankets.



Religion

Iron Age **Celts** believed in over 400 gods and goddesses that they thought lived in rivers, woodlands, lakes and other natural places.

Druids were priests and religious leaders. They carried out religious rituals and were the only people who could communicate with the gods.

During religious festivals and rituals, sacrifices of food, precious objects and even humans were given to the gods in the hope that this would keep them happy.

Druids also had other important roles such as those similar to doctors (using plants for medicine), judges (sorting out disagreements within the tribes) and using nature to predict the future.



Clothing

Men wore a T-shaped tunic made from wool or linen with trousers and a belt.

Woollen clothes would have been dyed with natural colours from berries and plants.

Checked and striped patterns were often worn.

Women wore floor length skirts or dresses with a cloak pinned with a brooch.

Celts often wore jewellery made from bronze, silver, gold and tin.

