



Year 3 and 4 Knowledge Organiser - The Iron Age

Key vocab

conquest:	conquering (taking control of) a country or group of people
significant:	important
influential:	makes people take notice
legacy:	something left behind after death
consequence:	result or effect
fortified:	protected against attack
dominant:	powerful or with influence
fortifications:	buildings, walls and ditches built to protect a place
inhabited:	lived in

The Iron Age in Britain was from approximately 800 BCE until the Roman Conquest of 43 CE. In this period, iron, a much stronger metal than bronze, was being used across Europe to make weapons and farming tools. As people travelled, this new technology spread with them. The use of iron is significant because of the huge changes that it brought to farming and conflict. Iron continued to be the most influential metal used until the 1800s when steel became the most widely used metal.



Sticky Knowledge

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the Iron Age, a group of people called the Celts travelled across Europe. They moved around to trade but many settled in Britain. The Celts were part of different tribes or clans that lived together. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the most dominant features of the Iron Age countryside was the hill fort. Banks, ditches and wooden fortifications often surrounded these important settlements. In times of peace, they were inhabited by farmers; during battles, they provided shelter for local populations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iron weapons made fighting between tribes more common. A consequence of this was the need to build much safer, fortified settlements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large hill forts, like the ones at Maiden Castle in Dorset and Old Oswestry in Shropshire, became important centres of trade and saw their populations increase as they provided safety and security for their tribes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tribes built well defended hill forts that were often as large as small towns. The buildings inside, called roundhouses, were made of mud and wood with thatched roofs. Roundhouses were used as homes, gathering places and markets. Villagers who lived and farmed in areas outside the forts could also take shelter there if they were being attacked. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At this time, farming was made easier by the use of iron tools, like ards (iron ploughs). More food production meant the surplus could be stored or sold, and soon the landowners became wealthy and powerful.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Iron Age Celts believed in many different gods. The druids (priests) believed in immortality (life after death) and so Celts were buried with ornaments, weapons and food to take with them to the afterlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Iron Age brought significant social change. During this period, societies began to produce and preserve more food than they needed to survive. They were able to store grain and to trade the surplus.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Iron Age brought new farming technology but also new weapons like swords and spears. As a consequence, fighting between tribes became more common. Farmers and villagers were often attacked, and their crops and animals stolen. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life in Iron Age Europe was mostly rural and agricultural. The lives of people were still dependant on the seasons and on the crops they could grow. The Celts were excellent farmers and, by increasing the land that they could farm, were able to produce more food than they needed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hill forts became a place of shelter during times of threat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iron Age people, such as the Celts, also kept livestock.

Exciting books!

