



WESTON  
MUSEUM

# IRON AGE BRITAIN

The Iron Age marks the end of prehistory after the Stone Age and the Bronze Age.

Yesterday, we explored Iron Age Britain, with a focus on North Somerset. Today, we will be looking at what we found out!



# FIRST ACTIVITY – QUESTIONS

## ABOUT IRON AGE BRITAIN

### 1. WHY IS IT CALLED THE IRON AGE?

It is in this time period in which iron became the preferred choice of metal for making tools.

### 2. WHEN WAS THE IRON AGE?

Approximately 500 BC to 43 AD.

### 3. HOW MANY HILL FORTS ARE THERE IN BRITAIN?

2,000 (600 of which are in Wales)



## 4. WHAT WERE THE 4 MAIN FESTIVALS? (ALSO WRITE ONE SENTENCE ABOUT EACH)

- Imbolc

A Gaelic traditional festival marking the beginning of Spring. It is held on 1 February, or about halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox.

- Beltane

The Gaelic May Day Festival. Most commonly held on 1 May, or about halfway between the spring equinox and the summer solstice.

- Lughnasadh

A Gaelic festival marking the beginning of the harvest season. Traditionally, it is held on 1 August, or about halfway between the summer solstice and autumn equinox.

- Samhain

A Gaelic festival marking the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter or the "darker half" of the year. Traditionally, it is celebrated from 31 October to 1 November.



# **SECOND ACTIVITY - WORLEBURY CAMP (IRON AGE HILL FORT)**

**1. HOW MANY PITS ARE AT WORLEBURY?**

93

**2. WHEN WAS WORLEBURY CAMP BUILT?**

Around 2,300 years ago

**3. WHEN WAS THE CAMP ADDED TO THE  
HERITAGE AT RISK REGISTER?**

2017



## 4. WHAT ARTEFACTS HAVE BEEN FOUND?

- a cast copper alloy penannular collar
- copper penannular brooch
- gold penannular bracelet
- roman coins

## 5. WHAT ANIMAL BONES HAVE BEEN FOUND?

- pigs
- oxen
- horses
- deer
- goats
- small birds



# **THIRD ACTIVITY - THE CLEVEDON TORC (DISPLAYED AT WESTON MUSEUM)**

## **1. WHERE WAS THE TORC UNCOVERED?**

Walton Castle, in Clevedon

## **2. WHEN WAS IT MADE?**

Around 150 - 50 BC

## **3. WHEN WAS IT ORIGINALLY GIVEN TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM, AND BY WHOM?**

It was donated by Augustus Wollaston Franks, in  
1897



# FINAL ACTIVITY – GLOSSARY

We have come across lots of new words, and we might have had to look up what some of them mean.

These are 5 words you should have come across, write the definition in these boxes!

## SMITHING

To treat metal by heating, hammering and forging it.

## ROTARY QUERN

A machine that uses circular motions to grind the material.



# GLOSSARY CONTINUED...

## CELTS

The people that lived in Europe during the Iron Age.

## HILL FORT

Groups of thatched houses on top of a hill, surrounded by moats, walls and ditches.

## ARD

Iron plough.



# DID YOU KNOW?

Here are several facts about Iron Age Britain.

Did you know these facts?

Most Iron Age people worked hard and lived on small farms, and their lives were governed by the changing of the seasons.

Coinage was first minted in Britain around 100 BC. Coins were made of gold, silver and bronze.

Iron Age Britons ate porridge made of barley and rye.



Only a quarter of children born during the Iron Age reached adulthood. The average life expectancy after birth was 25 years.

Iron Age Britain was famous for its hunting dogs.

As farming became more productive, the population began to rise.

Grain was stored in granaries or in underground vaults. Meat or fish could be preserved by salting or smoking.

