

# The Iron Age

In Britain, the Iron Age began in around 750BC and lasted until 43AD when the Romans invaded. It is called the Iron Age because people began working with iron (and other metals) using techniques brought in by travellers from Europe. Look around the inside and the outside of the roundhouse to see if you can spot these things.

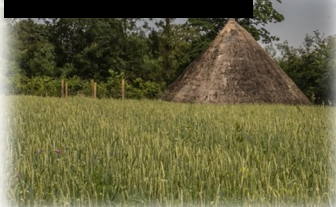


trees



People built roundhouses with materials they could find. Look at the trees from inside!

cornfield



Iron Age people were farmers. They planted rye, wheat and barley in fields. Wildflowers grew among the crops.

pigs



These are Tamworth pigs and are similar to the breed of pigs that people kept in fields nearby, for meat.

wetland



Wetland areas provided people with resources such as willow for building and edible crops such as hazelnuts.

plough



'Ard' was the name for a plough. They were pushed by hand to break up the soil, before crops were planted.

quern stone



This 'saddle stone' quern was used for grinding grains into flour. It would have been used in a small pit or hole to save the grains.

## beds



These areas were for sleeping.

## skins



Cattle were kept for meat, milk and skins. They were hung on racks to dry and used for clothing and bedding.

## skulls



The sheep skulls on display were there to make the tribe who lived in this house look scary and frighten off enemy tribes.

## cooking pot



Clay pots were used for people to cook things and to store food and grains. They were simple patterns.

## wool basket



This wool is straight off a sheep. It is then washed, combed, dyed and then spun before being woven into cloth.

## loom weights



Archaeologists have found loom weights like these at the site of roundhouses. They were used for weighting the threads.

## loom



Iron Age people made all their own clothes. Wool was spun and then woven on a loom to make cloth.

## thatch



Iron Age roundhouses were thatched with reeds or straw.

## open fire



The open fire burned in the middle of the room and smoke found its way out through the thatch.