

ABOUT : The Iron Age

Origins

Iron ore is one of the most abundant elements to be found on earth, Its use as a material for making tools and weapons started in the Eastern Mediterranean around 1200BC. By 700BC it was widely used throughout Britain. Iron was cheaper than bronze and easier to work. Techniques for working iron, such as heating and hammering became known as smithing. With Iron, tools could be sharper and subtler shapes formed. The Iron Age extended until the Roman invasion in 55BC.

People

The Iron age is associated with 'The Celts' in Britain. They lived in round houses, with thatched roofs and mainly in small communities, however they also formed larger settlements around hillforts, such as Maiden Castle, in Dorset. The Celts farmed barley and wheat and kept cattle, sheep and pigs.

The diets, homes, clothing and customs of people varied around different parts of the country.

Inventions and Society

Coinage appeared as well as the iron plough, called an 'ard' which could till heavier soils than previous bronze or wooden versions.

The 'rotary quern' was developed, helping to grind wheat into flour, between two circular stones. As farming improved, there could be an excess of grain, that was stored in granaries and was then traded. As this trade developed land became a valued commodity.

THE IRON AGE - *more information...*

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you want to find out even more about the Iron Age, use the links below.

Further information :

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/british_prehistory/ironage_intro_01.shtml

<http://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/the-iron-age>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Iron_Age

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