



- 'The Iron Age' is the name given to the time period (from approximately 800 BC to 43 AD in Britain) where iron became the preferred choice of metal for making tools.
- In Britain the end of the Iron Age is linked to the Roman invasion of 43 AD.
- Iron ploughs were stronger than earlier ploughs. This meant they could farm more land and diversify the crops.
- As farming became more productive, the population began to go up.
- As people began to produce and store more grain than they could use, they were able to trade the surplus.
- Land ownership and grain production became the way to gain wealth and power.
- One of the most important inventions of the Iron Age was the rotatory quern which was used for grinding grain to make flour. The grain was placed between two circular stones and the top stone was turned using a handle.



The first British coins were from around 100 BC.
Coins were made of gold, silver and bronze.

One feature of the Iron Age countryside was the hill fort. These were often fortified by banks, ditches and wood. In times of peace they were sometimes inhabited by farmers and they could provide shelter for local populations during war.



Most people still lived in wattle-and-daub roundhouses forming small communities. The food people ate, the houses they lived in and the customs they followed, varied depending on which part of the country they lived.

- Surplus- extra
- Fortified - provide defence against attack
- Inhabited - occupy or live
- Productive - make or produce large amounts,
- Diversify - range of different things

- Iron is found in rocks called iron ore.
- Making iron from iron ore is called smelting.
- Iron was tougher than bronze and could be shaped into finer and sharper objects. It could not be melted and poured into moulds like Bronze could.
- It needed heating to a high temperature and hammering to make into tools. Iron was more readily available than bronze.



Iron was used to make things like tools, weapons, nails and cooking pots.

It changed people's lives... but fighting was more common.