

ARE YOU A HISTORY BUFF OR A HISTORY BUFFOON?

Take this hard-as-iron QUIZ to find out how much YOU know about Iron Age Britain!

1. Why did people of the Iron Age build hill forts?

- A.** Hill forts were high up and near to the skies where Iron Age people believed their gods and spirits lived.
- B.** Hill forts were their homes – they lived in them as places to protect them from their enemies.
- C.** Hill forts were pitches on which to play an ancient form of football, a game that lasted all week and had three teams of 19 players each.

2. Why did Iron Age people put decapitated heads on stakes at the gates to their hill forts?

- A.** They liked to keep the heads of dead friends and family near by to make sure they didn't forget them.
- B.** The heads were there as a "Welcome to Our Fort" sign for good spirits and friends.

C. The heads were there to drive people away. They were a warning sign that said "ENEMIES KEEP OUT!" or this is where your head will end up too.

3. Who or what brought an end to the Iron Age?

- A.** The Romans who invaded Britain, bringing elephants on their ships to intimidate the local people.
- B.** The Golden Age, famous for its golden head-dresses and golden sandals.
- C.** The Ice Age, when the world was covered in vast sheets of ice.

4. What made iron so important that it signalled a new age called the Iron Age?

- A.** It was used to make weapons and tools for farming.
- B.** It was used to build multi-storey homes and shops.
- C.** It was used to build boats so people could travel overseas and trade with other countries.

5. What shape were houses in the Iron Age?

- A.** Rectangular.
- B.** Triangular.
- C.** Circular.



6. Why did Iron Age people throw shields and weapons into rivers and lakes?

A. As offerings to the Goddess of Fresh Water.

B. They believed it was unlucky to use a dead man's weapons, and so they threw away weapons belonging to those killed in battle.

C. We don't know.

7. What the Romans feared most about Iron Age people were their chariots. Why?

A. Iron Age chariots were super-fast and could thrash anyone in any race!

B. The Romans thought chariots pulled by two horses were actually eight-legged monsters that would kill them.

C. Iron Age people were expert at using chariots in war.

8. Where did Iron Age people get their clothes?

A. From the Iron Age high street.

B. It was very hot in Iron Age times so they didn't wear any clothes.

C. They made them.

9. What did people of the Iron Age use to write?

A. Nothing. They couldn't read or write.

B. Quills, ink and parchment.

C. Chalk on slate.

10. How did Iron Age people learn about their history?

A. They used Romans as slaves who wrote their history books for them.

B. Talented poets memorised stories and told and retold them.

C. They didn't believe that any history before existed before them, so they didn't bother.

Answers on the next page ➡



ANSWERS

1: B

Iron Age people built forts to protect themselves against their enemies. Sometimes, everyone lived within the fort. Other times, the local population would retreat to the hill fort from houses outside the fort.

2: PROBABLY C

The Iron Age people didn't leave any written records of why they did this, but some Roman writings suggest it was done to scare their enemies.

3: A

The Romans invaded Britain in 43 AD. That invasion marked the official end of the Iron Age, although many people in Britain continued to live an

Iron Age life for decades, if not centuries, after.

4: A

When people used iron to make their tools and weapons, it made them much stronger than the weaker metals and woods used before. Iron gave people the ability to make things, grow things and – when necessary – to fight with more power.

5: C

Iron Age houses were round. In fact, they are now called roundhouses. The Romans and Anglo-Saxons were more likely to build rectangular houses.

6: C

We don't know. A and B are ideas that could be true, but we can't be sure. What do you think?

7: C

One of the key tactics of Iron Age warfare was to drive chariots into the heat of battle to deliver the best warriors to fight where they were most needed.

8: C

Iron Age people made their own clothes from wool, leather and other natural materials.

9: A

The people of Iron Age Britain did not read or write. Most of what we know about them comes from the writings of Romans and other people.

10: B

Stories were passed from generation to generation by poets, known as bards. They entertained people by telling long, complex stories from memory.

BUFF OR BUFFOON?

If you scored 10/10

You're a top-class history buff. Seth and Nadiya will be glad to have you on their side as Defenders!

If you scored 5-9

You have more research to do before the Defenders will add you to their team!

If you scored 4 or under

Seth and Nadiya won't mind. They are history whizz-kids and will gladly give you a lesson!

