

Iron Age Portal Story

Model text

I was wandering through a beautiful, tranquil forest when I tripped. I fell down, down, down. When I woke up, I was on a smelly farm surrounded by wooden circular buildings. What a strange place it was! I am completely lost, I thought as I looked around. Was I going to be in trouble? I bumped into a young girl – a strange, young girl. She looked different to anyone I knew as she was wearing a long tunic with a belt and face paints! She took me to meet her family. What a bizarre and serious lot! I didn't understand a thing they said, but I worked out my friend was called Aife. Excited, I explored their home as it was so different to mine. They lived in hillforts and duns.

One curious afternoon, we walked down to the nearby river and I watched men fishing with long, terrifying iron spears. Swoosh! Their spears dropped like lightning to catch some tasty looking fish. After, we returned to their hillfort and they showed me around their farm with chickens and cows. Next, we foraged for berries. That night, we all shared the delicious food the men had caught and found that day.

As the days became weeks living in their tribe, I learned many things. Aife took me to a meeting place to show me something special. All the women of the tribe were dyeing the tribes' clothes. The women were doing it with berries, plants and seaweed. I couldn't believe it! Amazingly, Aife picked up some berries and joined in, but I wasn't allowed to. I was full of admiration for their creativity.

One blissful evening, we were running down the hill from the fort as the sun was setting. Suddenly, the ground gave way and I started to fall. I fell down, down, down for what felt like forever. It became pitch black.

When I woke up, I was confused. The fort was gone and it looked very different around me. I looked for Aife and the tribe, but they were nowhere to be seen. I realised I was back home. When I told my family about my adventures and my new friend, they didn't believe me. Was it a dream? I didn't think so! I had seen all those things with my very own eyes and I had touched the food and the dyed clothes. The whole experience will never be forgotten...

