Key Stage: 2

National Curriculum Subject Area/s: History, Art and Design, potential for cross-curricular work

Length of session: 1 hour and 30 minutes (KS2)

Max group size: 32 pupils

Session outline

This session explores life in Anglo-Saxon Britain. In this interactive session pupils will discover:

- More about where the Anglo-Saxons came from and how we can learn about them.
- Where ancient objects are found. (Sometimes in the most surprising places!)
- There will be some opportunities for dressing as an Anglo-Saxon warrior.

Activity 1: Evidence from objects

- Pupils will handle a range of replica objects that would have been found in burials.
- They will work as detectives to decide what the objects are and what they are made of.
- They will then look at an image of a burial and decide where the objects might have been placed and if the skeleton is male or female.

Activity 2: Gallery Hunt

- They will search the gallery for original artefacts highlighting aspects of daily life.
- They will design a disc brooch inspired by brooches in the England Gallery.

Activity 3:

- They will try out writing in runes

Learning Outcomes

- Understanding that objects can give us information about how people lived and worked.
- Understanding more about the different kinds of materials used by craftsmen.
- Knowledge and understanding of using archaeological evidence to learn about the past.
- Awareness of similarities and differences between life in Anglo-Saxon Britain and today.
- Improved speaking and listening skills.

‘This session was outstanding! The delivery, activities and resources were first class, I can’t recommend it highly enough!'

Key Stage 2 teacher
Dry Sandford Primary School after a pilot session in July 2014

Contact us for more information and to book:
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Pre visit activities

• Research where and when the Anglo-Saxons came from.
• Think about how we can find out more about the Anglo-Saxons.
• Find out if there are any Anglo-Saxon buildings or other sites near to your school. Visit if possible.

Post visit activities

• Research how people dressed in Anglo-Saxon times?
• Discover more about eating and drinking in Anglo-Saxon times. Discuss the similarities and differences with today.
• Create your own Anglo-Saxon feast.
• Look at Anglo-Saxon runes and write messages to each other.
• Read a child friendly version of Beowulf.
• Create your own riddles. These were popular in Anglo-Saxon times.
• Make and play Nine Men’s Morris a popular Anglo-Saxon game. Search on our website for rules and a game board.

Resources

The following resources are available to download on our website: www.ashmolean.org/learning-resources

Images of some of the objects used in the session.

Days of the week cards - simple matching activity.

Other useful websites:

http://anglosaxondiscovery.ashmolean.museum/

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/anglo_saxons/

This blue glass bowl dates from the 7th century. It was found in a grave in Cuddeson Oxfordshire, in 1847.