

Sample Lesson Plans

Theme: Anglo-Saxon Clothes

These lesson plans are designed to be used in conjunction with the Anglo-Saxon Discovery website (<http://anglosaxondiscovery.ashmolean.museum>).

This series of 3 lessons covers one theme – Anglo-Saxon Clothes.

Lesson 1: Who Wore What?

This lesson investigates the evidence that tells us about the clothes that Anglo-Saxon men, women and children would have worn.

Lesson 2: Making Anglo-Saxon Clothes?

This lesson explores how Anglo-Saxon clothes were made, what they were made from and who would have made them.

Lesson 3: Exploring the Evidence

This lesson reviews and consolidates what the children have discovered about Anglo-Saxon clothes. Exploring the evidence in further detail.

Structure

The lesson plans could be used as 'stand alone' lessons or as part of a series of lessons on one theme. This format provides an example of how the Anglo-Saxon Discovery website can be used.

This format could easily be applied to other themes (e.g. daily life, food, housing, death and beliefs, etc.). Equally the website and activities could be used for whole class sessions.

These lesson plans are flexible and are designed to be a stimulus for teachers wishing to use the website.

Support Materials

Some supporting materials are provided on the website, such as the worksheets, however other books, websites and supplementary resources are encouraged to allow teachers to adapt the lessons plans to their own requirements.

Information of other [useful books](#) and [websites](#) can be found on the website.

Anglo-Saxon Clothes Lesson Plan 1 – Who Wore What?

Intended Learning Outcomes

- Children will be able to describe what Anglo-Saxon men, women and children wore.
- Children will be able to name and identify specific objects and understand how they were used (e.g. brooch, buckle, beads, ear scoop, toilet set, cosmetic brush).
- Children will be able to deduce information about the use of these objects and about their owners.
- Children will understand how archaeologists use objects as evidence for life in the past.

National Curriculum Links

Key Stage 2 History 6a, Art and Design 6b, ICT, Literacy, Reading

Duration 1 hour

Material and Resources

Computers (including internet access and interactive whiteboard / demonstration computer)

[Object record activity sheet](#)

Relevant books

Handling materials/objects (not essential)

Pencils, paper, colouring pencils, etc.

| | Activity | Teachers Notes |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Introduction (15-20 minutes)</p> <p>Whole Class activity</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole class gathered so teacher can introduce Anglo-Saxon clothes using website. • How do we know what we know? What is our evidence? Teacher introduces types of questions archaeologists ask about the evidence (i.e. objects) to find out about Anglo-Saxon clothes. • Teacher works through all or some of the following objects and questions on website: Buckles Beads Brooches Comb Toilet Set including ear scoop, pick, tweezers and cosmetic brush. | <p>Start on Anglo-Saxon clothes page</p> <p>Key Questions: What materials are these objects made of? How were these objects made? How were these objects used? Who would have used these objects?</p> <p>Further information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeologists have not found a whole Anglo-Saxon outfit, but find artefacts which they use to 'guess/deduce' what Anglo-Saxon clothes may have looked like. • Objects made of organic materials (e.g. linen/wool cloth, leather, horn) do not survive very well since they rot in the ground. Archaeologists most often find objects made of metal, pottery, stone and sometimes bone (refer to objects on website). • There are lots of gaps in the evidence. |

| Anglo-Saxon Clothes Lesson Plan 1 – Who Wore What? | | |
|--|---|---|
| | Activity | Teachers Notes |
| <p>Group Activity (30 minutes)</p> <p>Class divided into 4 groups</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The children are to be cast in the role of archaeologists. Each group is given a person (man, woman, girl, boy) that they have to research. They discover the evidence for the clothes that person would have worn using the resources available. The character being researched could also be given a name (examples are available on the website). • Groups can then split further to investigate using particular types of resources (e.g. internet, books, handling materials) • Children use the 'Object Record Sheet' to record the evidence they find. Children can select particular objects and record them. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Anglo-Saxon Discovery website can be used for this activity especially the further information pages leading from the object pages: e.g the Thurlow information pages on Buckles, Beads, Brooches, Combs and Toilet sets. e.g object information pages on Wallingford Buckles, Wheatley Necklace, Abingdon Brooches, Sutton Courtenay Comb, Frilford Toilet Set and Tweezers. • Additional resources such as books, websites, and handling materials will need to be used for this activity. |
| <p>Plenary (10 minutes)</p> | <p>Whole class to gather to discuss the evidence they have found.</p> | <p>Possible Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did you discover? • What surprised you most about the things you discovered? • What is your most 'fantastic fact' about Anglo Saxon Clothes? • What is your favourite object? |
| <p>Extension Activities</p> <p>Children can design there own Anglo-Saxon brooches using patterns on those they have seen as inspiration.</p> <p>Children can make their own Anglo-Saxon beads.</p> <p>Children can draw what they think an Anglo-Saxon man, woman or child may have worn and looked like.</p> | | |

Anglo-Saxon Clothes

Lesson Plan 2 – Making Anglo-Saxon Clothes

Intended Learning Outcomes

- Children will be able to describe how Anglo-Saxon clothing was made, all the stages involved and appreciate the amount of work involved.
- Children will be able to identify and name specific objects and understand how they were used (e.g. loom weight, spindle whorl, needle).
- Children will be able to deduce information about the use of specific objects and about their owners.
- Children should understand how archaeologists use objects as evidence for life in the past.

National Curriculum Links

Key Stage 2 History 6a, Art and Design 6b, ICT, Literacy, Reading

Duration 1 hour

Material and Resources

Computers (including internet access and interactive whiteboard / demonstration computer)

[Object record activity sheet](#)

Relevant books

Handling materials/objects (not essential)

Pencils, paper, colouring pencils, etc.

| | Activity | Teachers Notes |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Introduction (15-20 minutes)</p> <p>Whole Class</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole class gathered so teacher can introduce how the Anglo-Saxons made their clothes. • Teacher works through all or some of the following objects and questions on website: Loom weight Spindle whorl Needle. | <p>Start on Making Anglo-Saxon clothes page.</p> <p>Key Questions: What materials these objects made of? What were these objects used for? How were these objects used? Who would have used these objects?</p> <p>Further information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothes mainly made of wool or linen, although other materials such as hemp and nettle were also used. • Looms could only be as wide as a persons arms so cloth was also only this wide. This limited how clothes were made, since no cloth would be wasted. Anglo-Saxon clothes were made using rectangles and triangles sew together to make the tunics, dresses and trousers. • In the late Anglo-Saxon period (9th-11th centuries) the Anglo-Saxons became famous across Europe for their embroidery skills. Nuns often did the best embroidery. The Bayeux Tapestry is a good example – it is through to be made by Anglo-Saxon women shortly after the Norman invasion. |

| Anglo-Saxon Clothes Lesson Plan 2 – Making Anglo-Saxon Clothes | | |
|---|--|---|
| | Activity | Teachers Notes |
| <p>Group Activity (30 minutes)</p> <p>Class divided into 4 groups</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The children are to be cast in the role of archaeologists. Each group is given a person (man, woman, girl, boy) that they have to research. They discover how their clothes would have been made and who would have made them using the resources available. • Groups can then split further to investigate using particular types of resources (e.g. internet, books, handling materials) • Children should use the object record sheet to record the evidence they find. Children can select particular objects and record them. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Anglo-Saxon Discovery website can be used for this activity especially the further information pages leading from the object pages: e.g the Thurlow information pages on Making Clothes, Weaving, Spinning and Needles. e.g object information pages on Sutton Courtenay Loom Weight and Abindgon Needle. • Additional resources such as books, websites, and handling materials will need to be used for this activity. |
| <p>Plenary (10 minutes)</p> | <p>Whole class to gather to discuss the evidence they have found.</p> | <p>Possible Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did you discover? • What surprised you most about the things you discovered? • What is your most 'fantastic fact' about Anglo Saxon Clothes? • What is your favourite object? |
| <p>Extension Activities</p> <p>Children can try spinning with a drop spindle if available.</p> <p>Children can design their own outfit using only materials and colours available to the Anglo-Saxons.</p> | | |

| Anglo-Saxon Clothes Lesson Plan 3 – Exploring the Evidence | | |
|---|---|--|
| Intended Learning Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will be able to describe what clothes different Anglo-Saxons (men, women and children) would have worn and how it was made. Children should understand the variety of evidence available and how it can be used to understand life in the past. | | |
| National Curriculum Links Key Stage 2 History 6a, Art and Design 6b, ICT, Literacy, Reading | | |
| Duration 1 hour | | |
| Material and Resources Computers (including internet access and interactive whiteboard / demonstration computer) Relevant books Handling materials/objects (not essential) Class work from previous lessons Who wears what activity sheet | | |
| Introduction (10 minutes) Whole Class | Activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher explains the activity. Each group will create a table-top display presenting the evidence that have gathered about the clothes worn by the Anglo-Saxon person they were researching (man, woman, girl, boy). Teacher should explain that they need to find out the answers for the 'Who wears What?' activity sheet. | Teachers Notes Children are to arrange their findings in a table-top display for other children to visit and discover what they have learnt. |
| Group Activity (30 minutes) Class divided into 4 groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In their groups children will create their table-top displays. Children will visit the other groups to find out what has been discovered. Children can use this information to complete the 'Who wears what?' activity sheet. | This is also an opportunity for children to display any additional activities/work that may have been completed for this theme. |

| Anglo-Saxon Clothes Lesson Plan 3 – Exploring the Evidence | | |
|--|---|--|
| | Activity | Teachers Notes |
| Plenary (20 minutes) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole class gathered so teacher can use the clothing quizzes on the Anglo-Saxon Discovery website to review what has been learnt. • Teacher can use further information on the summary pages (Anglo-Saxon men, women and children) for further discussion. | <p>Start on the Anglo-Saxon clothes page using this to move to pages on Anglo-Saxon men, women and children. Short quizzes on each of these pages is found under 'What do YOU think they wore?'.</p> <p>Further information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were different regional styles of Anglo-Saxon dress. For instance girdle hangers and wrist clasps were worn mainly in East Anglia and the north east of the country. • Anglo-Saxon female costume changed over time. The dresses with brooches were no longer worn by the late 7th century. Shift dresses were then worn. As Christianity was adopted head dresses were also worn by women. Archaeologists do not know if they wore them previously. • Male costume did not really change much over time. • After Christianity adopted (6th century onwards) objects no longer buried with people so it is harder for archaeologists to work out what Anglo-Saxons later in the period wore. Can use manuscripts and carvings as evidence. |
| <p>Extension Activities</p> <p>Children can try the dressing up games on the website (Dress Cyneburg and Dress Osric).</p> <p>Children can draw what they think an Anglo-Saxon man, woman or child may have worn and looked like.</p> <p>Children could find out what the Anglo-Saxons wore in their area, to see if it is different from other parts of the country.</p> | | |

Further Resources

All these books are suitable for children.

Books on The Anglo-Saxons

Baxter N. *Romans and Anglo-Saxons in Britain - Craft Topics Series* (Franklin Watts)

Dowswell P. *Sutton Hoo – The Anglo-Saxon way of Life and Death* (National Trust)

Heroes of History *Anglo-Saxons – Life in Britain during the Dark Ages* (Colour History)

Knapp B. *Anglo-Saxon Raiders and Settlers – Curriculum Visions* (Atlantic Europe)

Macdonald F. *Anglo-Saxon and Viking Britain – Life in Britain Series* (Watts)

Malam J. *14 October 1066 the Battle of Hastings* (Cherrytree Books)

Pitkin Guide *The Saxons*

Pitkin Guide *Saxons and Vikings*

Reeve J & Chattington J. *The Anglo-Saxons Activity Book* (British Museum)

Riley P D. *Anglo-Saxon Invaders and Settlers – Step-Up History* (Evans Bros.)

Sharman M. *Anglo-Saxons – Britain Through the Ages* (Evans)

Stoppleman M. *What Happened Here? Anglo-Saxon Village* (A&C Black)

Williams B. *Alfred the Great* (Hamlyn)

Williams B. *The Saxons and Vikings* (Heinemann)

Whittock M. *Living in Anglo-Saxon England* (Heinemann)

Reading Books / Anglo-Saxon Stories

Crossley-Holland K. *Beowulf –illustrated version* (Oxford University Press)

Hague L. *Saxon Superman* (Anglia Books)

Hayes R. *Flight of the Mallard – A Fenland Adventure* (Anglia Books)

Hayes R. *Misson from the Marsh* (Anglia Books)

Lane S. *The Riddle Girl – An Anglo-Saxon Story* (Anglia Books)

Oakden D. *History Quick Reads No. 7 Stories of the Saxons and Vikings* (Anglia Books)

Sheeham L. *The Plague Piper* (Anglia Books)

Swallow S. *The Haunted Coast* (Anglia Books)

Reference Books

Millard A. *A Street Through Time* (Dorling Kindersley)

Wilkes A. *A Farm Through Time* (Dorling Kindersley)