

# Unearthing the Anglo-Saxons

# ASHMOLEAN

## 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:

Education Department  
Ashmolean Museum  
Beaumont Street  
Oxford OX1 2PH  
T. 01865 278015  
E. [education.service@ashmus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:education.service@ashmus.ox.ac.uk)

[www.ashmolean.org/learn](http://www.ashmolean.org/learn)

## 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.  
<http://anglosaxondiscovery.ashmolean.museum/>

## Resources

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