

Anglo Saxon Introduce Me



Hello, I'm a lyre or harp. I'm a musical instrument. I've got strings which you pluck. When poets tell stories or songs they often play their harp. Kings like to listen to stories when they have a feast for their companions....

Anglo Saxon Introduce Me

This is a collection of information sheets about the Anglo Saxons which will be added to. I have also produced a smaller card version with the same information which you might prefer to use. I'm hoping that they can be used for children to present information to each other. Everyone could be given a card so they can become a history expert on one item. They should be encouraged to read their card, study the picture carefully and then present their information to another child in their own words. We encourage children to put their card face down while presenting, The other child then presents their information in the same way. Now each child (let's call them child A and child B) has two items of information.

We then suggest that the pair of children meet up with another pair who have also shared information. Then child A presents child B's information to C and D. It works quite well when children 'become' the item and present it in role: e.g.

Hello, I'm a lyre or harp. I'm a musical instrument. I've got strings which you pluck. When poets tell stories or songs they often play their harp. Kings like to listen to stories when they have a feast for their companions....

The group of four might then present their information to the whole class and this could progress to a class assembly presentation. You might want to organise the items of information in thematic fours. I suggest you put coloured dots on groups of cards to help sort them into groups.

The purpose of the activity is to ensure that children have talked about the topic several times and in several different ways and to different children well before they have to produce any writing.



Bows and Arrows

We hunt with bows and arrows.
We shoot birds, deer, rabbits
and hares. We protect our
sheep from wolves. We fight in
the fyrd with bows and arrows
too.



Houses

We build houses made of wood,
mud and straw. We repair them
every year.



Weapons

We fight in the fyrd with spears and axes, bow and arrows. Only important men, like kings and thegns, have swords.



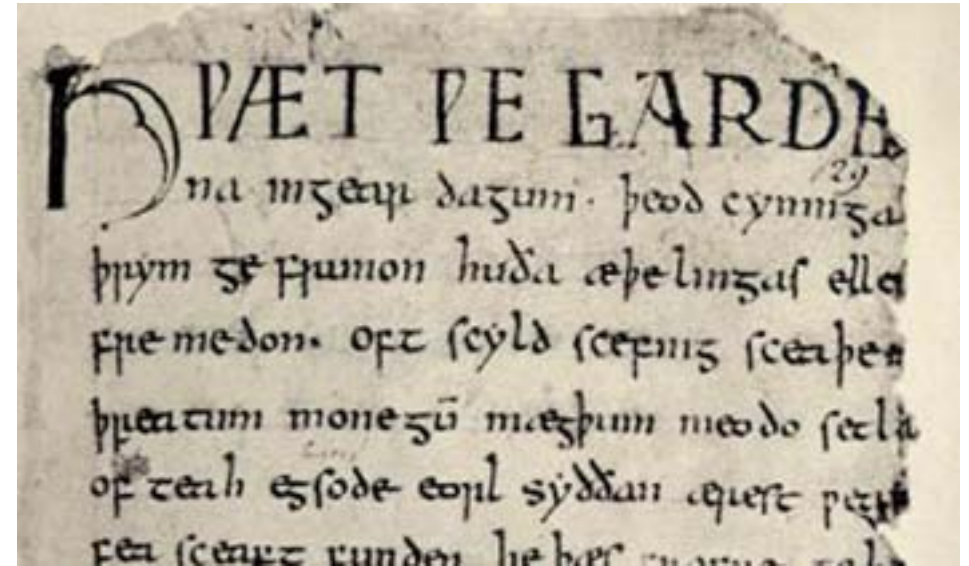
Baskets

We make straw baskets and wooden barrels to carry and hold things. Baskets are light and strong. Here these men are carrying clay mud to build a house.



Belt

Every man wears a belt. This is a rich man's belt with an expensive buckle. The belt carries a knife and a purse for coins.



Books

Monks in monasteries write and copy books. This is the first part of the poem Beowulf. He was a very strong hero who killed monsters.



Oven

Every settlement has an oven. We light a fire in it until it is hot. Then we take out the fire and put bread in the oven to bake.



Ship Burial

These men are getting ready to bury a king. They pull a ship on land and build a house in it. They put the dead king in with all his weapons. Then they pile earth on the ship.



Carving

This is part of a stone cross. Our carvers and painters like making knots in their designs.



Cooking tools

We cook on open wood fires. This is best done outside when the weather is good. When we do it indoors the house fills with smoke.



Distaff



Wool



Loom

We spin our sheep wool on the distaff then weave the woollen thread on the loom. Loom weights keep the thread tight. All our clothes are made from wool or linen.

Loom Weight



ox horn



drinking cup for
a rich feast.

**Horn, Bone and
Antler**

We make drinking cups out of horn. Bone and antler is good for flutes, combs and needles.



flute



Dyes

We dye our wool thread with plants before we weave cloth. These are some of the colours we get. We get blue from woad.



Silver Pennies

We need to have coins for trade. To get a halfpenny we cut the penny in half. We cut it in half again to make a farthing. Farthing=four things=four parts.



Lyre or Harp

We play the lyre or harp by plucking it. We make one from wood and animal gut. Singers and poets like to play it on feast days. They sing stories about heroes from the past like Beowulf.



Helmet

This is a king's helmet. It probably belonged to Raedwald from East Anglia. It came from the Sutton Hoo ship burial.



Shield

We stand close together and make a wall with our shields. They protect us from arrows and spears. We make shields from leather and wood.



acorns

Oak Forest

Every settlement needs a lot of wood. We make our houses and tools from wood. We burn wood to cook and to make iron. Our pigs love to eat acorns.

Plough



coulter/cutter

share



You need strong oxen and a lot of human help to plough a field. A plough has a cutter/coulter to slice a straight line and a share made of iron to turn the soil upside down.



part of a pig to make a football

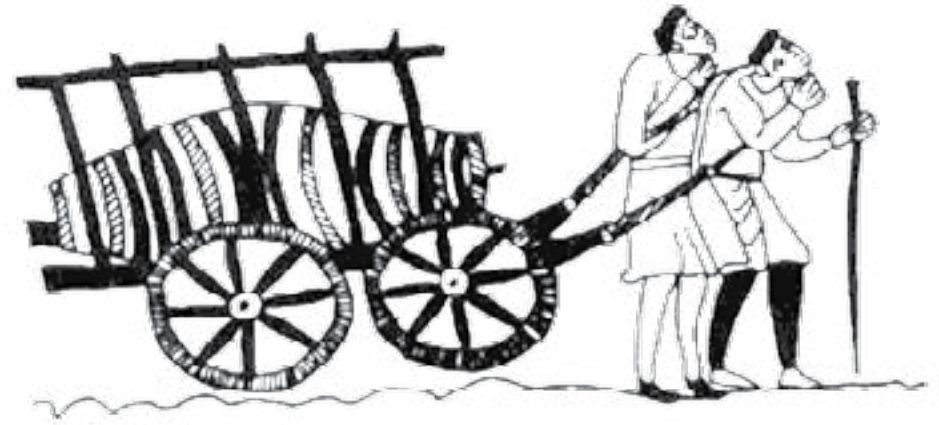
Pigs

We drive our pigs into the forest every day. They eat acorns and grow fat quickly. At night we keep them indoors so that wolves can't catch them. We use every part of the pig. The bladder makes a good football.



Runes

Runes are good for carving on stones. We leave rune messages about famous people and famous events. Can you write a message with runes?



Travel



Roads are bumpy and muddy. You need good shoes to walk a long way. Travel is slow and hard. We wish we had an ox to pull this cart.



Harvest

Everyone helps with the harvest. Here we are threshing the grain out of the wheat and rye. Then the grain is ground into flour.



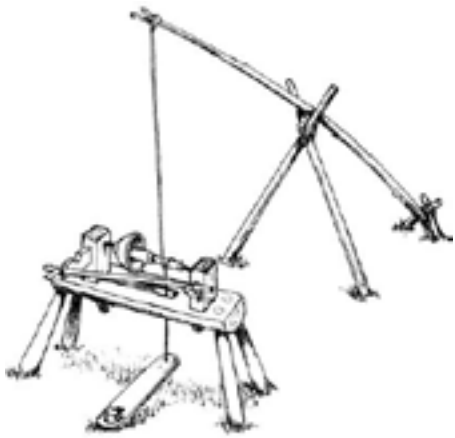
Food

We grow all our food on our farms. Leeks are the only green things to eat in winter. If the harvest is bad, we starve.



Treenware/ Woodware

The bodger makes these bowls and tools out of green wood on a pole lathe. We wait for them to grow hard before we use them.

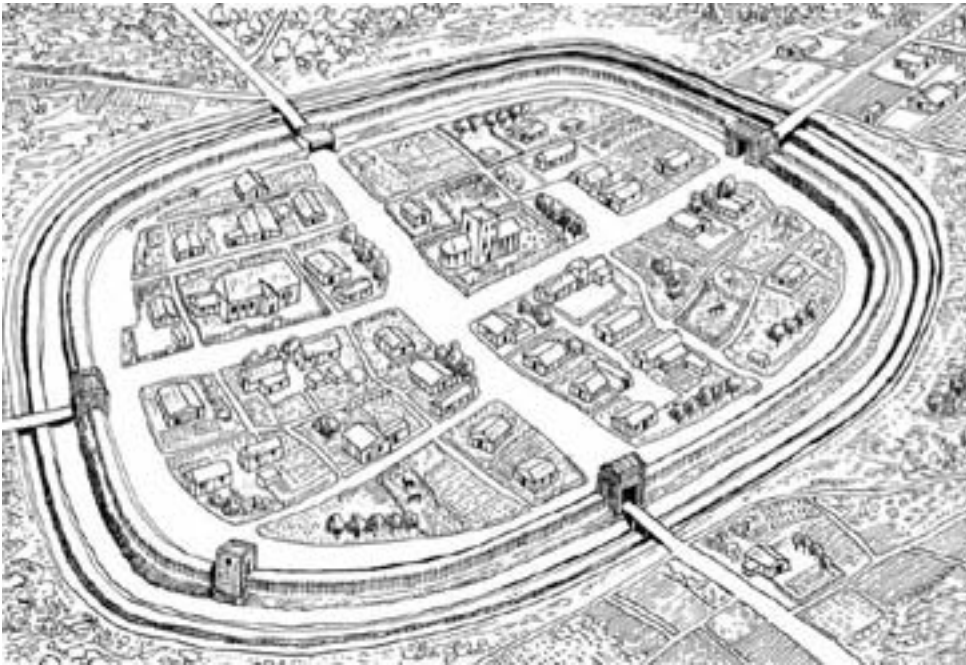


pole lathe



Trousers

These trousers are made of wool. They take a very long time to make so have to last a long time.



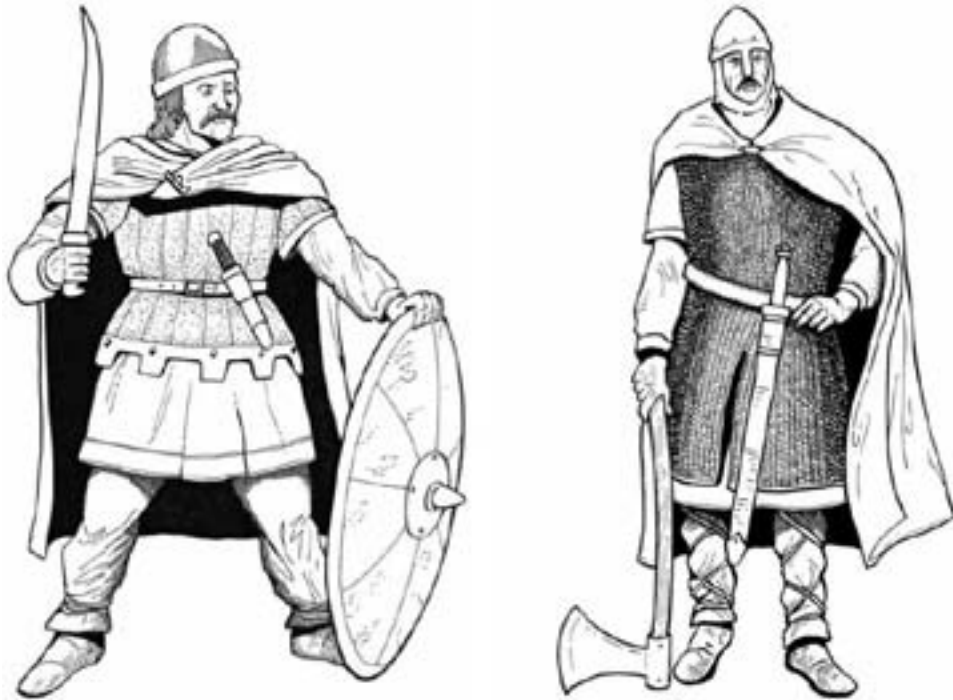
Burh

This is a fortified place to go when we are attacked. King Alfred built burhs all across his kingdom. A burh usually has a mint to make coins. Craftsman and traders started to live in burhs.



Ceorl/Churl/Gebur

A ceorl is a free man. He gets land from his thegn. He has to fight in the fyrd/army and help build bridges and burhs.



Thegn/Thane

A thegn is a free man. He gets land from his ealdorman. He gives land to ceorls. He has to fight in the fyrd/army and help build bridges and burhs.



Ealdorman

Bryghtnoth was an ealdorman in East Anglia. He fought against the Danes at the Battle of Maldon with his thegns and ceorls. He was a king's companion. He gets his land from the king.



Queens, Kings and Bretwalda

This is Queen Aethelflaed and King Penda. There were many queens and kings. The main kings were called bretwalda. They often fought against each other.

They had strong companions, aethelings and earldormen to help them.



Sheep

Wool from England is sent all over Europe.



This ceorl is plucking wool off a sheep. He pulls the wool. He does not need to cut it. The wool is then washed, spun and woven into cloth.





Edgar Aetheling was proclaimed king in 1066 after Harold was killed. William became king and Edgar escaped to Scotland.

Aethelings/Princes

We are related to kings and have ancestors who were kings. We receive gifts and are part of the household. We agree to support the current king. One of us will become the next king. We often fight each other.



Witan

We are a group of important ealdormen, thegns and bishops. We help the king make good choices. We also help to choose a new king from the aethelings.

Slave/Theow/Thrall



I am a slave. I work on a farm.
I do a lot of weaving of woollen
cloth. I am good with herbs for
healing. People give me money
for my herbs.

Merchant



I am a merchant. I travel on
the rivers in a boat from burh
to burh. I go to the markets
and sell salt, beads, spices and
precious items. I pay the king
money to use the market.

Quernstone



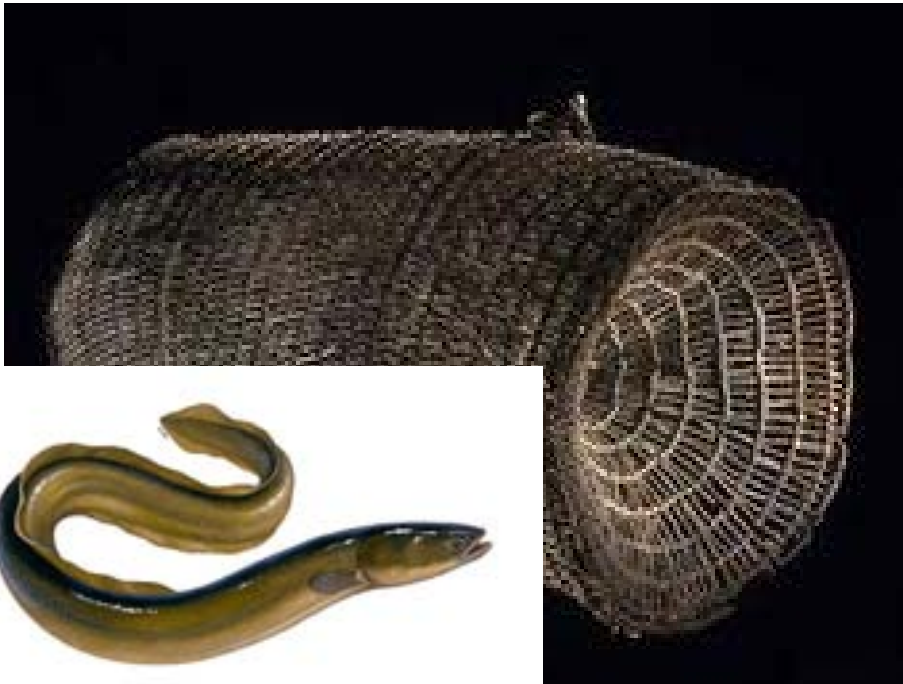
This is a quernstone. It is made of hard, black rock. It grinds wheat into flour. It comes from Germany over a thousand miles away.

Jewellery



We are precious items. Everyone likes to wear jewellery or give it to others to seal friendship. When people die, we bury them with their jewels.

Eel Trap



I am a fisherman and this is my eel trap. The eel goes in the hole to eat the juicy piece of meat and cannot get out. I sell my eels in the burh market. I have to give the king some money for each sale.

Church



This church was built in the burh of Bradford. It was part of a monastery which started around 705CE. Aldhelm, Bishop of Sherborne, set it up.

Tally sticks for the geld
Archbishop Wulfstan under
Aethelred

More things