



KS2 resource pack: Anglo-Saxons and Vikings

Created by Norwich Castle Learning Team

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Timeline



The Anglo-Saxon and Viking period covered a huge amount of time! Have a look at this timeline that shows the most important events of the period. Can you imagine being alive when these things were happening?

Pretend you are an Angle (from the southern part of Denmark—they settled in East Anglia). Can you write a text message to a friend about some of the events on this timeline as if you were there? We've done the first one as an example.

400CE — Because of trouble back in Rome, the Roman Army leaves Britain...unprotected.

500CE — Jutes (from Northern Denmark), Angles (from Southern Denmark) and Saxons (from part of what is now northern Germany) settle in Britain. They spread out into seven different kingdoms.

600CE — Christianity first arrives in England.

600CE — The settlement of Northwic emerges as the centre of East Anglia

700CE — Vikings begin to attack. They start by raiding a rich monastery on the northeast coast of England.

800CE — The Vikings continue their attacks and invade East Anglia.

800CE — After many battles with the Anglo-Saxons, the Vikings settle and a treaty is drawn up. The Vikings are in charge of East Anglia and most of the north, the Saxons rule the south.

900CE — England is united for the first time! The seven kingdoms had gradually merged, and when the last king of the Danelaw (the Viking kingdom) dies, his kingdom joins with the rest and King Aethelstan becomes the first king of England.

1000CE — Vikings attack in the north. The Saxon king Harold wins the battle but, while he is in the north, Normans attack from France. The Saxons race south but they lose the Battle of Hastings and William the Conqueror becomes the new Norman king. It's the end of Anglo-Saxon Britain.

1100CE

Hey dude! Did u hear the Romans left Britain. All that good land, loads o space! I say we should go. We can live like kings! R u up 4 it?

[Empty speech bubbles for writing]

Roles and Rights in Anglo-Saxon and Viking Societies



Men in both Anglo-Saxon and Viking society would generally protect their family, home, village, shire and country. Men would provide for their families through hunting, farming, skilled work, fighting and invasion of other countries (to acquire land, precious metals, fighting equipment etc).

Women would mainly be in charge of raising the children. Their children would need to be healthy, strong, obedient and provided with training for their future life. As well as being a strong role model for any children, women would also be in charge of providing a clean and tidy home, food on the table, and clean and well-mended clothing for the whole family. If the man of the family was away for any reason, the woman would take charge in his place and her authority was totally respected. While the men did most of the fighting, she would need to be ready to defend her home and family from attack if that happened. If a man was travelling to take over and settle in new lands, he would take his family with him.

Single men and women would provide for themselves.

Have a go at the next **activity**: put a tick in the box if you think a Viking man or woman was able to do each of these things.

	Viking women	Viking men
Inherit property		
Wear men's clothes		
Choose their own husband/wife		
Request a divorce		
Become rich and powerful		
Run the family farm or business		
Have short hair		
Appear in a court of law		

Have a look at the answers and explanations in the answer pages at the back of this booklet. Did anything surprise you?

Anglo-Saxon men and women had very similar roles to the Vikings. Men and women in Anglo-Saxon times had different roles but were valued equally in society. When somebody was hurt or killed in Anglo-Saxon England, they or their families would be paid a sum of money by the person who hurt them. This was called the wergild and men and women would be paid the same amount.

Slavery was normal in these times. People who were captured in battle, brought from other lands or who couldn't pay the wergild could be made a slave. Slaves were usually forced to do the hardest and heaviest work, like hauling water and cleaning out the animal pens. They were not paid but they could be given gifts. If they were hurt, they would not receive any payment (wergild) as other people would have.

If you lived in Anglo-Saxon or Viking times, would you rather be a man, a woman, or a slave? Why?

Guess the Object

Have a look at these pictures. What do you think each object could be? What material is it made out of? How would it be used? Write your ideas in the spaces with each picture and then check the answer pages to see if you were right.

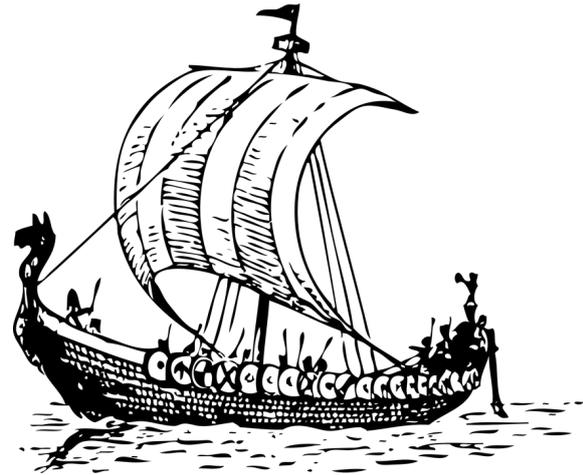


How many did you guess correctly? If you were choosing items from around your house for people of the future (or from the past) to look at and guess what they were, which four items would you choose and why?

Viking Longships

Ships were really important to the Vikings. Longships would have been used in battle and to transport warriors on voyages of conquest. Longships were long and light in the water so they would be fast and could move around easily. They had both a sail (usually a square attached to a tall mast) and oars (up to 50 oars on a very large ship), so that they could sail using the power of the wind or rowers. The front, or prow, of the ship would often be highly decorated with patterns or animals.

Can you design your own ship's prow? Think about the purpose of your ship—do you want your ship to look wealthy and powerful or fierce and scary?

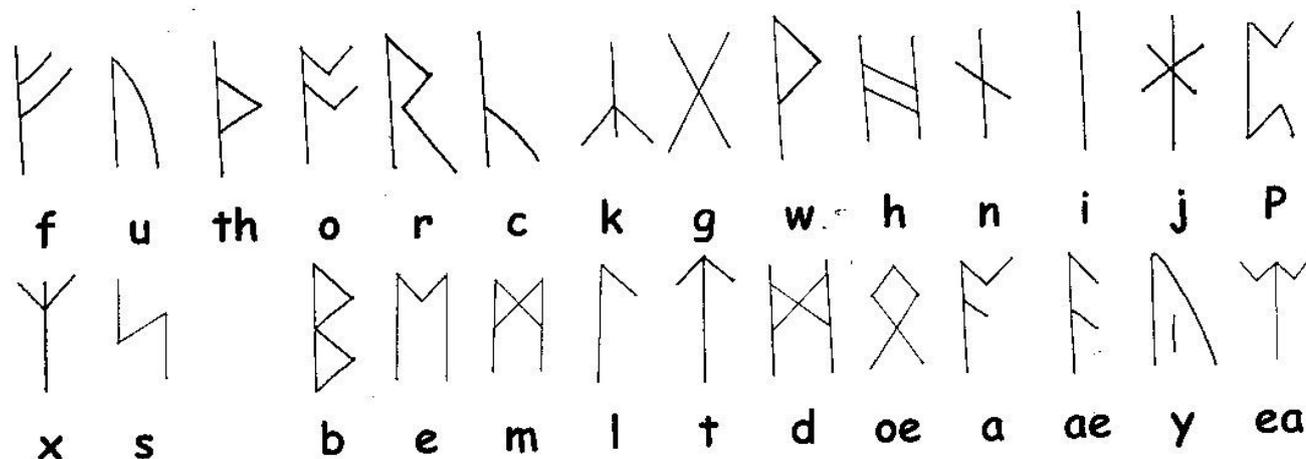


Runes

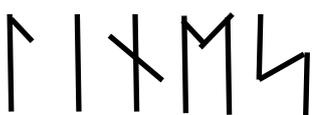
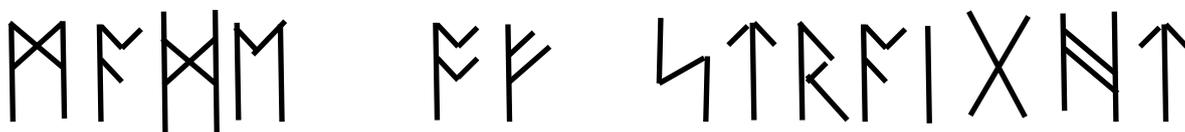


Both the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings wrote using letters called runes. They called their alphabet 'futhork'.

Can you work out why it was called this? (Hint: we call our letters the 'alphabet' because the first two letters are called alpha and beta in Greek)



Can you 'translate' these runes?



Why do you think this is? (Hint: we mostly find runes carved into stone or wood)

Write your name in runes in the box below. You could also decorate the border with some knotwork like the design in this picture.



Place Names



The Anglo-Saxons and Vikings had a huge influence on something that we use all the time — place names!

Have a look at the chart below. Lots of places were given a name that described what was there using Saxon or Viking words. Use a map of your county or country and see if you can find as many examples of places that came from Saxon or Viking names as you can. (We've put a few examples in to help you get started).

Viking Influence	Meaning	Modern place names
-BY	Farmstead (some of these farms have grown into villages and towns!)	Scratby,
-THORPE (also – THROP and –THOP)	Secondary settlement (this means a small settlement just outside a bigger settlement)	
-TOFT	A small settlement	
-BOROUGH	Fortified place	

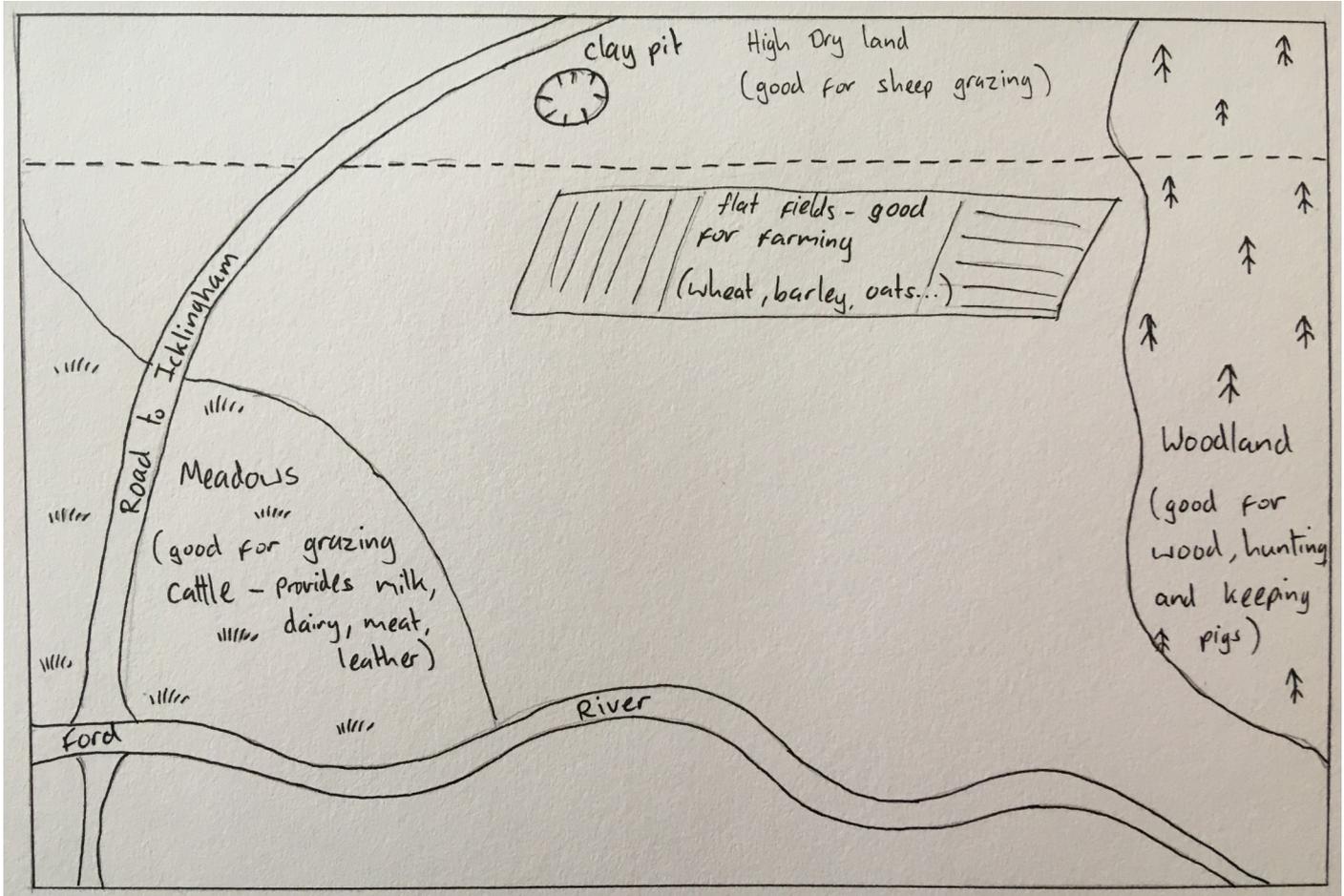
Anglo-Saxon Influence	Meaning	Modern place names
-HAM	Village	Swaffham,
-BURY	Fortified place (can you hear how similar this is to the Viking word 'borough?')	
-TON	Farm	
-FORD	River crossing	
-WICH (also –WICK)	Port or trading place	
-STOW (also –STOWE)	Meeting place or holy place	
-LEIGH (also –LEE, –LEY)	Forest clearing	

Some places were named after the people or the leader that lived there. These place names end in –ings or –folk. For example: Norfolk and Suffolk are people of the north and south in East Anglia, and Hastings is Haesta's people.

Anglo-Saxon Town Planning



Wolfrum wants to set up his new village on this beautiful land. You will find a map and a key below. Can you decide where all the buildings should go? Read about who lives in each house and what they might need nearby to help you finish the map and help Wolfrum design his new village. Don't forget that as the Thane, or village leader, Wolfrum will need a great hall in the perfect spot so that he can help all of the people in his village and provide a special gathering place for them. Good luck!



1000m



Th Thane—Wolfrum needs a hall in the centre of the village with a little grub hut off to one side for his slave, who will tend to the crops in the fields



S Smith— the smith gets iron from traders on the road, and makes nails, horse shoes, buckles, tools and weapons. The smith needs water close by for quenching and cooling hot fires.



P Potter — the potter uses clay to make pots (for cooking and carrying water) and tools like spindle whorls (used for spinning). They need access to clay. This potter also keeps cows.



W Weaver — the weaver turns sheep's wool into cloth by cleaning, spinning, dyeing and weaving. They need wool from sheep and water for washing and dyeing.



B Bone/antler craftsman—this craftsman makes combs, needles and other fine tools to sell. They need bones and antlers from deer. This craftsman also keeps pigs.



C Carpenter — the carpenter makes tools, buckets, furniture, houses and so much more! They make it all out of wood.



T Tanner—the tanner uses cow skins to make leather which is used for things like bags, belts, and shoes. They need access to water. It is a very smelly job.



Space for a cemetery — the village needs a special place to bury people after they die. The cemetery should be at least 300m away from most of the houses.

What is the name of your new village? _____

Housing



Use words from the box below to fill in the gaps as you learn all about Anglo-Saxon homes and villages.

furniture	branches	wood	expensive	patterns	
shelter	electricity	daylight	blankets	cooking	middle
window	bigger	Thane	different	cold	

Most Anglo-Saxon homes were rectangular buildings made of _____ with a thatched roof. Everybody would live and work in one room (unless you were wealthy and could afford an extra room or two on the side of your house). There would be a _____ at each end of the room but there was no glass, so it would be a small slit rather than a big window, and you might have some wooden shutters to keep out the _____. There would also be a raised fire pit in the _____ of the room with either a metal tripod or a chain hanging from a roof beam, to hold your cauldron or cooking pot over the fire. The fire would always be burning to keep the room warm, and also for _____.

The most important building in the whole village was the home of the _____, sometimes called the longhall. This would be the same shape as most houses but _____! The roof of the longhall (and houses of richer people) would often be made of shingles – these are like modern-day tiles, but made of wood, which would be overlapped over the oak beams to keep out the rain and wind. This was much more _____ than thatch (reeds and grasses) because it would take around 18,000 shingles to cover the building, but it lasted longer. Oak beams and willow _____ would be used to make the walls and then they would be plastered over to fill in the gaps. The inside of the Thane’s longhall was decorated with _____ and stories painted in bright colours. The building was bigger than all the others in the village so that the villagers could meet together under _____, to talk, plan, tell stories, drink and eat together.

The inside of an Anglo-Saxon home would be very _____ from our modern houses. _____ would be very simple and made of wood. Stools would be used instead of chairs with backs and arms, storage trunks would double up as seating and beds would be very simple flat wooden structures with animal skins and furs being used as _____. There was no _____ back in Anglo-Saxon times so they would use tallow candles made of animal fat or very simple oil lanterns. These lights are not very bright, so you would have to make sure all the jobs that needed good light were completed during _____ hours.

Clothing and Jewellery



The Anglo-Saxons and Vikings wore different clothes than we do today. They had different technology and so they didn't use any zips or Velcro! Read through the information below and then see if you can identify the different items of clothing on the following two pages. Once you've worked out what everything is, you can colour in the clothes but try and make the colours realistic! If you want to, you can cut out the people and clothes and dress them.

Female Clothing

- **CYRTEL** — this underdress was ankle-length with long sleeves that were tight on the forearm. The sleeves were longer than the arm and pushed back, so they look wrinkled.
- **HANGEROC** — this was worn on top of the underdress. It was made from a tube of cloth and the lower hem was wide enough so that when you walked you could stride comfortably. The shoulder straps would be fastened by brooches. Belts were important because at this time people did not have pockets. A small bag would hang from your belt.
- **HEAD DRESS** — it was indecent for a woman to show her hair, so she would wear a **WIMPLE**. This was a length of fabric which was wound around the head and secured with pins.
- **SHOES** — usually these were made from thin leather with thicker leather for the sole. Socks were made by nalbinding (a bit like crocheting) spun wool.
- **CLOAKS** — Women would have worn a cloak, especially when travelling. It would have been fastened by a large sturdy metal brooch.

Male Clothing

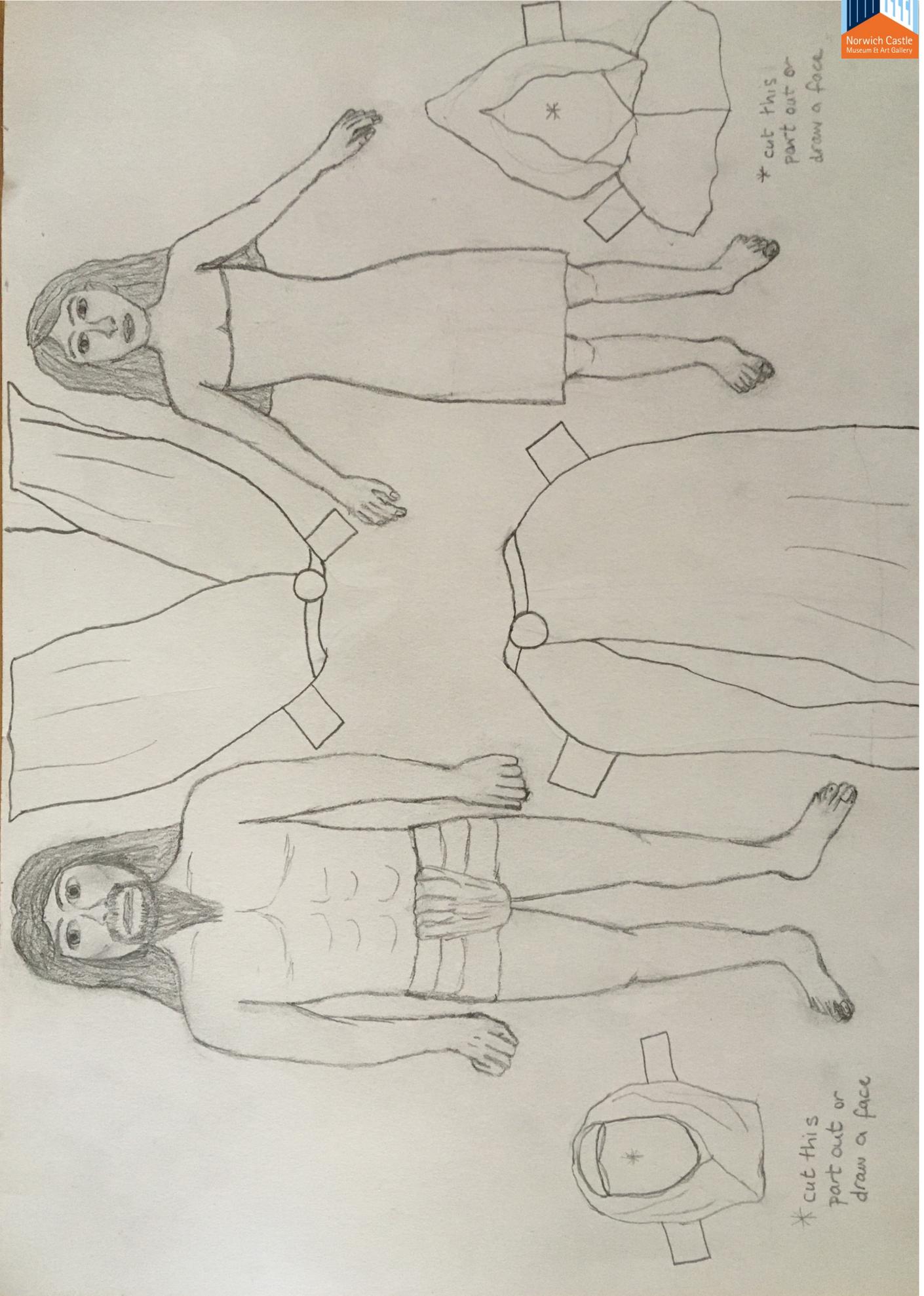
- **UNDERTUNIC (smoc)** — this would be knee-length and made of fine wool or linen.
- **TUNIC** — this was usually long-sleeved and knee-length. The sleeves are fairly loose on the upper arm but tighter on the forearm. For those who could afford it, the neckline might be bordered by a band in a contrasting colour.
- **TROUSERS** — Anglo-Saxons wore **KNEE BREECHES** (like a long pair of very baggy shorts reaching the knee or just below) and **LEG COVERINGS** (formed by winding a length of fabric around the leg in a tight, overlapping spiral from ankle to knee).
- **CLOAKS** — cloaks were square or rectangular, secured with a single brooch, usually at the right shoulder. Cloaks sometimes had an attached hood but a separate hood would mostly be worn. The separate hood was called a **COWL**.
- **SOCKS** — socks were made from wool. The end of the sock could cover all the toes together (like a modern sock), be divided into two or sometimes be divided for each individual toe.

Colours. The colours of your clothes would change depending on your social status. Natural products were used to make dye. Dyes that were made of things that were rare and hard to find would be more costly. So low-status people (peasants and slaves) would wear colours like browns (made from tree bark), yellows (onion skins) and other pale colours whereas the very rich would wear stronger colours like deep red, which is made from thousands of cochineal beetles!

Jewellery—like necklaces, bracelets, rings, and brooches— was worn by both men and women for various reasons:

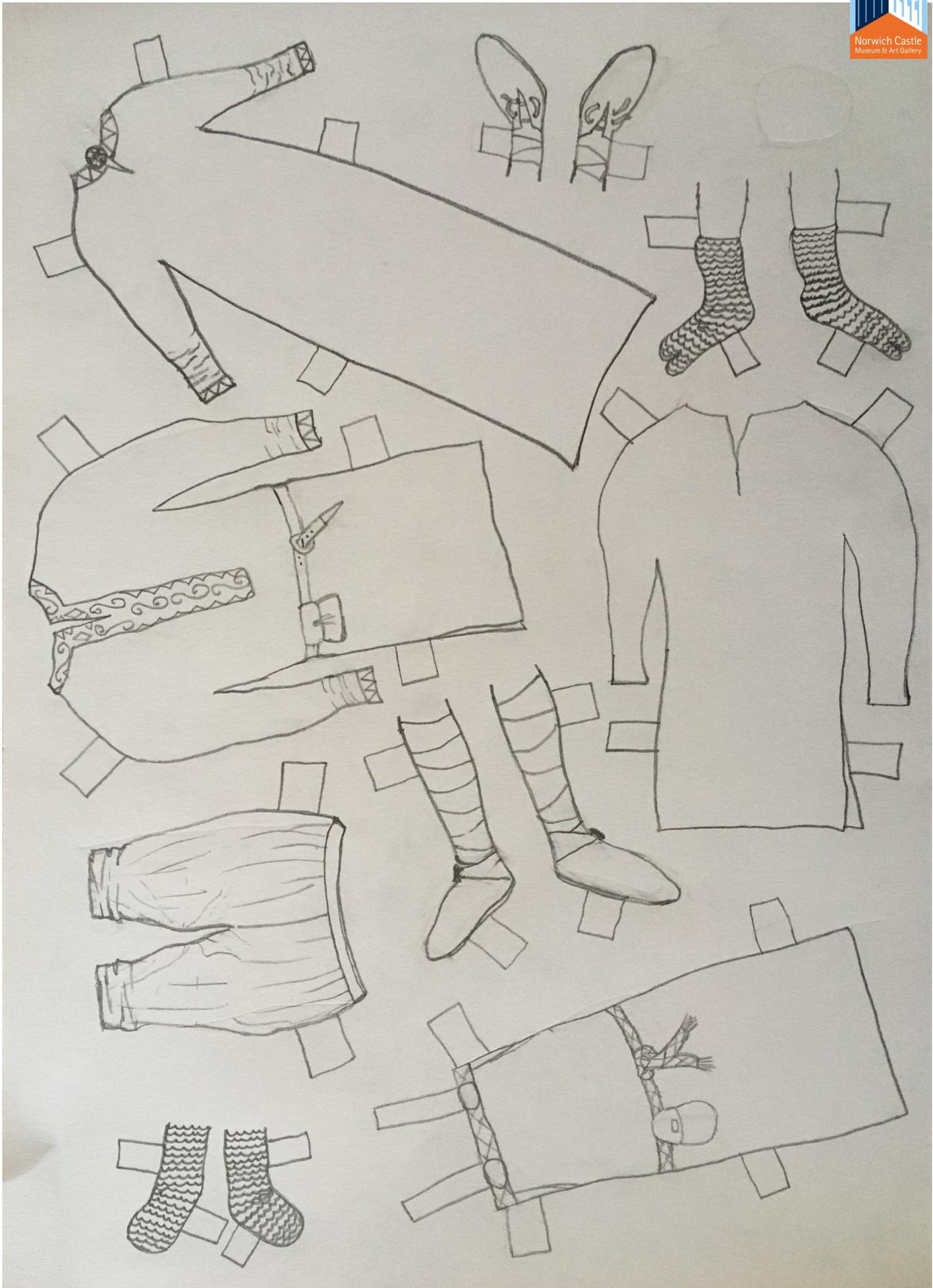
- They believed in many gods - they hoped to get strength, wisdom and/or luck from those gods by wearing different jewellery representing the gods.
- Practicality. Jewellery pinned together cloaks and held up clothing.
- Jewellery was worn to show your status in society. The number/size/quality of items showed your wealth.
-

Jewellery would be made of lots of different materials, including glass, metal, precious stones, wood, shells and bone.



* cut this
part out or
draw a face

* cut this
part out or
draw a face



More Cross-Curricular Ideas



Literacy

- ◇ Imagine you are the curator of a museum. Can you write labels for the objects on the 'guess the object' page. Try and make your label informative but also interesting for the public. Don't forget, if it's going on display, you must be very careful with your spelling, punctuation and grammar!
- ◇ Find out about the Anglo-Saxon poem 'Beowulf'. Can you understand it? What story does it tell? What do you think? Could you write a review, or maybe an epic poem of your own?

Maths

- ◇ Viking weights and measures were very different to ours. Can you make a chart showing their units? Maybe you could measure some things using Viking measures.
- ◇ Can you make up some Anglo-Saxon word problems? For example: Hilda has 36 loom weights for her loom, but she wants to make a bigger piece of cloth. She makes a loom that is 50% bigger. How many loom weights will she need for the new loom?

Design and Technology

- ◇ With adult permission and supervision, can you scratch runes into some wood? Maybe you can experiment with different stones. How can you make marks with only materials you find outside?
- ◇ Can you make some jewellery? What could you use to make it?

Anglo-Saxons and Vikings

Religious Education

- ◇ Find out about the Viking belief in the afterlife (Valhalla). How does it compare to the Christian beliefs that became more popular after 700CE?
- ◇ There is archaeological evidence that people in this period wore symbols of their religion. Can you find evidence of people doing that today? Why do people use religious symbols?

Science

- ◇ The Anglo-Saxons and Vikings didn't have electric heating. Can you do some research on how to stay warm in the winter? Which materials keep you most warm? How could you make a fair test to work out which fabrics make the best winter clothes?

Music

- ◇ Can you create the sounds of an ocean voyage or maybe a battle? What would you use to create these sounds?
- ◇ Anglo-Saxons and Vikings didn't watch TV, so could you make up a little tune that could be hummed or played on an instrument to cheer people up as they sit around a fire on a cold winter's night?

Geography

- ◇ Imagine you are getting ready to leave and settle in a new place to build your own settlement. Find a map (or use internet maps) to have a look around. What features will you be looking for as you find somewhere for your new village? What do those features look like on a map?

Art

- ◇ Can you design an Anglo-Saxon brooch or the handle for an Anglo-Saxon dagger? Use the internet to look at some examples of real artefacts. You could create a page of ideas and then design your own.

Drama

- ◇ Choose a part of the Anglo-Saxon poem 'Beowulf' to act out, or write it as a scene of a play. Have a look at some examples of how plays are written. What stage directions would you need?
- ◇ Could you take a selfie where you are acting out some of the different jobs that need doing around the village? Maybe you could show it to others to see if they can guess what job you are doing.

Roles and Rights in Anglo-Saxon and Viking Society: Answers



	Viking women	Viking men
Inherit property	✓	✓
Wear men's clothes	X There's very little evidence of women warriors, but it was not unheard-of for a woman to dress up as a man to go and fight. However, if a Viking woman did this she'd be in more trouble for wearing men's clothes than she would be for fighting!	✓
Choose their own husband/wife	✓	✓
Request a divorce	✓	✓
Become rich and powerful	✓ Women could become rich and powerful, and could be in charge. One example is the Osberg Queen, a woman buried in a beautifully decorated ship with her many expensive possessions back in 834CE.	✓
Run the family farm or business	✓ A single woman would do this, and a married woman would take over the running of the farm or business whenever her husband was away.	✓
Have short hair	X	✓ You might think that everyone from that time had long hair—even the men. However, long hair was not always practical if you spent a lot of time wearing certain types of armour and helmets!
Appear in a court of law	X Viking women could not appear in a law court, but in Anglo-Saxon society, women could defend themselves or be a witness in a court of law.	✓

Guess the Object: Answers



Tweezers and a nail cleaner, attached to a loop, forming a toiletry set



Comb—this comb is made out of a deer antler. It is beautifully decorated.



This is a strap end that would go on the end of a belt



Spear head—this would be attached to the end of a long pole to make a spear



This brooch is called the Harford Farm brooch. It is made of gold and garnets. It has runes scratched into the back that say 'Luda repaired me'. If you look closely at the bit in the bottom right section, you can see that it has been repaired! Luda must have been very proud of the work she did!