

Anglo-Saxon daily life

Main Focus History - write a chronicle to explain life in an Anglo-Saxon village

Topic Links English – write a diary entry as an Anglo-Saxon

Suitable for Year 3/4

Learning Objectives

2b) about the social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity of the societies studied, in Britain and the wider world

2c) to identify and describe reasons for, and results of, historical events, situations, and changes in the periods studied

Resources

- Cartridge paper
- Ink pens
- Non-fiction history books

Introduction

Ask the children to describe what they have already learnt about life in an Anglo-Saxon village from previous lessons. Get them to compare an Anglo-Saxon village with a Roman settlement. How did the Romans build their houses? Did the Anglo-Saxons build their houses in the same way? How did the Roman and Anglo-Saxons try to protect themselves?

Split the children into small groups and get them to sit in a part of the classroom. Read out the following statements and get the children to role-play as Anglo-Saxons carrying out each action.

- The houses were made from wood and they had roofs thatched with straw
- There was a fire in the middle of the room. Women cooked food in an iron pot hanging over the fire.
- Men worked in the fields to grow crops.
- Women collected water from the well.
- Women spun wool to make clothes for the family.
- Children caught birds and small animals for food. They picked wild berries and mushrooms to eat.
- Some Anglo-Saxons worked as blacksmiths or cobblers

After the children have role-played each activity ask them to suggest what the Anglo-Saxons might have said about their lives.

Remind the children that some of the things we have learnt about Anglo-Saxons were recorded in *The Anglo-Saxons Chronicles* written by monks. Discuss with the class what the monks might have written about life in an Anglo-Saxon village. Model to the children how to begin writing a diary entry about a monk's visit to an Anglo-Saxon village.

Activity

Leave out some non-fiction books on the children's tables about the Anglo-Saxons. Tell the children to spend a few minutes looking at the pictures of Anglo-Saxon life in villages. Get them to identify activities carried out each day by Anglo-Saxon families.

Tell the children to imagine that they are a monk visiting an Anglo-Saxon village. Get them to write a diary entry of their visit. The children can write a draft of their diary entry and once it has been checked by a teacher then can produce a final copy using ink on cartridge paper. They can smear cold tea over their writing to produce an aged piece of work.

Differentiation

Get some children to draw pictures and add captions to show life in an Anglo-Saxon village. They can draw the pictures using ink on some cartridge paper and use cold tea to create an aged effect.

Plenary

Get some children to share their diary entries. Ask the class to compare the life of the Anglo-Saxons with other groups of people in history that they have already studied.