

STIRRUP: AD 950–1050

- Found near Magdalen Bridge in Oxford.
- Found with other objects including another non-matching stirrup.
- Probably from a Viking burial.

Why do you think the stirrups didn't match?

RESEARCH: Find out what a Viking or an Anglo-Saxon warrior would have looked like.

DRAW your warrior.

THE ALFRED JEWEL: AD 871–899

- Found in 1693, ploughed up in a field at North Petherton, Somerset.
- Found only a few miles from Athelney Abbey where Alfred planned his counter-attack on the Great Army of the Danes.
- This attack helped spur Alfred on to victory at Edington in 878.
- The jewel was given to the Ashmolean in 1718.
- An inscription on the jewel reads 'Aelfred mec heht gewyrkan'. This means 'Aelfred ordered me to be made'.
- Once thought to be a jewel from a crown.
- Now thought to be an 'aestel' – a pointer to help monks follow text in a manuscript.

MAKE an aestel and stick it on a pencil.

THE CUDDESDON BOWL: AD c600

- Blue glass bowl found in 1847 in Cuddesdon, Oxfordshire.
- From the grave of an Anglo-Saxon of noble rank during alterations to the Bishop of Oxford's palace.
- The bowl went missing for many years.
- Spotted on a mantelpiece in Leicestershire in 1971 being used as flower vase!
- Probably made in Kent.
- Glass making furnaces have been found in York, Glastonbury and Kent.
- Some Anglo-Saxon glass was made of melted down Roman glass.

How do you think the vase could have got to a house in Leicester?
WRITE an account of the bowl's adventures.

ABINGDON SWORD: AD c875

- Part of a sword found near Abingdon in Oxfordshire in 1874.
- The hilt is decorated with six engraved silver mounts.
- The patterns are interlacing leaves, animals and human figures.
- The pommel has two animal heads with protruding ears, round eyes and nostrils but they are rather worn.

Who might have owned this sword?

HAVE A GO at creating Anglo-Saxon patterns on silver or gold foil.

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THE ALFRED JEWEL: AD 871–899

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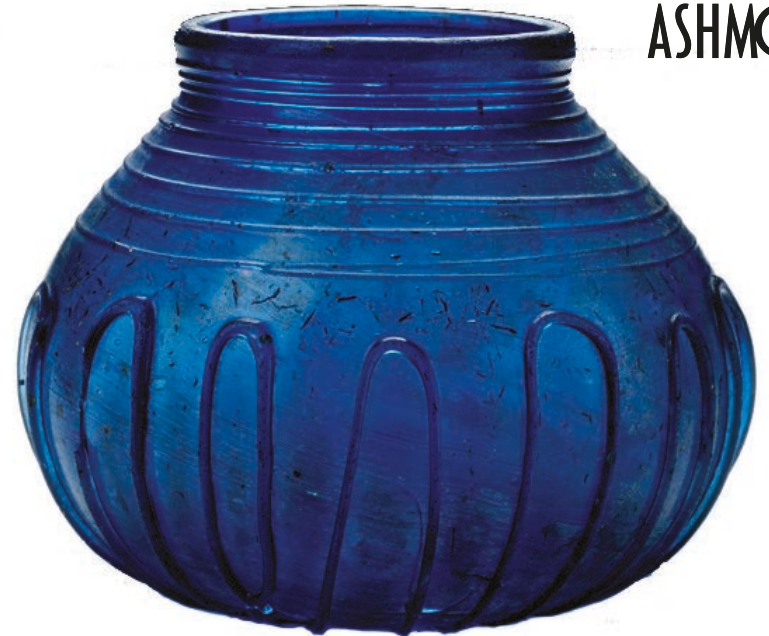
STIRRUP: AD 950–1050

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ABINGDON SWORD: AD C875

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THE CUDDESDON BOWL: AD c600

HOLDERNESS CROSS: 7th century

- This cross was found on the Holderness peninsula in East Yorkshire.
- Made from gold and garnets.
- Dark red garnets were particularly popular in early Anglo-Saxon jewellery.
- Only 58 of the original 95 garnets remain.

CHALLENGE: Design your own Anglo-Saxon jewellery using gold card or foil and sticky gems.



ODDA STONE: AD 1056

- Discovered in an orchard in Deerhurst, Gloucestershire, in 1675.
- The inscription in Latin tells us that Earl Odda had the stone made in memory of his brother Aelfric and placed in a chapel in 1056.
- Odda was related to Edward the Confessor.
- About 200 years after this stone was found, the chapel mentioned in the inscription was found.
- An old stone house was being renovated. The chapel emerged from under layers of plaster!

CHALLENGE: Use EVA foam and 'carve' your own inscription. Just use a pencil to make your marks on the foam.

Your inscription could be in Anglo-Saxon runes. Use our 'Writing in Runes' sheet to help you do this.



SHIELD BOSS: AD 400–1066

- Found in a male burial near Berinsfield, Oxfordshire.
- Anglo-Saxon shields were made of wood.
- The metal boss at the centre of the shield turned it into an extra weapon, not just a defensive object. The warrior could jab at opponents with his shield.
- Warriors would typically carry a sword or a spear.
- Warriors could also create a shield wall by overlapping their shields on the battle field for extra defence.
- High status men would be buried with a seax—a shorter knife. The name 'Saxon' comes from the word 'seax'.

RESEARCH KENNINGS: make up a name for an Anglo-Saxon shield



DIE: AD c400

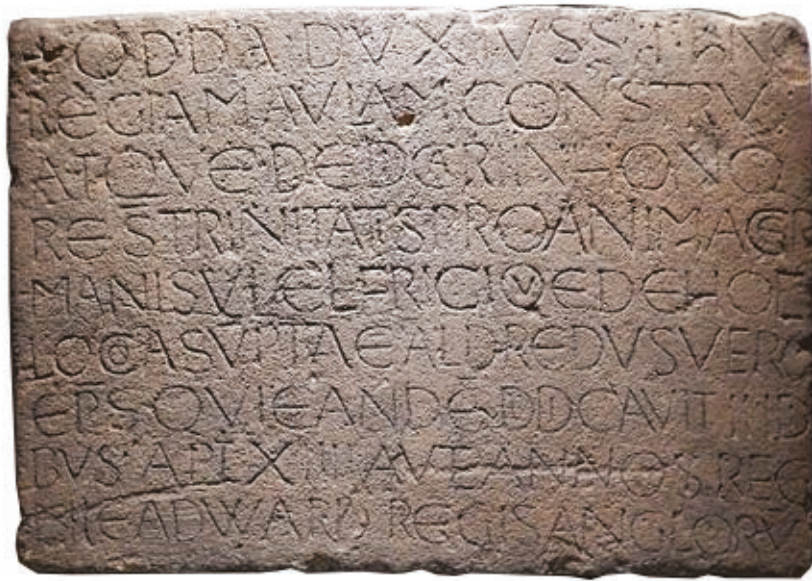
- This die is made of antler. It was probably made when the Romans were still in Britain.
- Found in a high status burial of a man at Asthall Barrow in Oxfordshire. The man died between 550 and 650 AD.
- The Anglo-Saxons loved games.
- Gaming pieces were usually made of bone, pottery, glass or stone.
- They are often found in Anglo-Saxon graves.
- The boards the games were played on are rarely found as they were made of wood.

CHALLENGE: Nine Men's Morris was a popular game in Anglo-Saxon times.

RESEARCH THE GAME: make your own boards and pieces then play the game with your friends.



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ODDA STONE: AD 1056

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HOLDERNESS CROSS: 7th century

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DIE – AD c400

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SHIELD BOSS – AD 400–1066

TWEEZERS: AD 450–650

- Found in Cambridgeshire.
- Made of copper alloy – a mixture of copper with either tin or zinc.
- Toilet sets are often found in female burials as well as other objects of daily use that an Anglo-Saxon woman might need.

RESEARCH the jobs an Anglo-Saxon woman would do.

WRITE a list of items that might be found in a burial.



BUCKET: AD 450–650

- Found in Haslingfield, Cambridgeshire.
- Reconstructed using modern wood and the original copper alloy handle and other parts.

What do you think happened to the wood?

CLAW BEAKER: AD 520–540

- This glass beaker was found in a male burial in Finglesham, Kent.
- It is called a claw beaker because of the talon-shaped decorations.

What do you think the beaker was used for?
Who might have used it?

THE CUERDALE HOARD: AD c905

- Found by the banks of the River Ribble, Cuerdale, Lancashire.
- The hoard is the largest found in England, weighing 40 kg.
- The hoard is the largest found in England, weighing 40 kg and made up of 8,600 pieces.
- Most of the hoard is on display at the British Museum. The Ashmolean has this selection of objects on display.
- This large hoard was buried shortly after the Vikings were expelled from Ireland. It was probably buried en route to York.
- Found in 1840 and originally given to Queen Victoria.

Why do you think the hoard was never recovered by the person who buried it?

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BUCKET: AD 450–650

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TWEEZERS: AD 450–650

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THE CUERDALE HOARD: AD c905

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CLAW BEAKER: AD 520–540

HIGHLIGHT CARDS

These cards highlight 15 objects from our Anglo-Saxon collection. All the objects are on display in England, Gallery 41 on floor 2 of the museum. Occasionally objects may be taken off display for study or conservation.

The Highlight Cards give:

- Questions to encourage discussion
- Additional information about key Anglo-Saxon objects
- Ideas for challenges to try out in the classroom

The cards are designed to be used by teachers but could be used independently by more able students.

THE WATLINGTON HOARD: AD 879–880

- Found near Watlington, Oxfordshire in 2015.
- The hoard is made up of coins, jewellery, hacksilver, and a rare piece of hackgold.
- The hoard was found by a metal detectorist. A find like this is treasure and must be reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme.
- If you find treasure you must report it. If you don't, you could be fined or jailed.

IMAGINE you found the hoard. Describe the moment you found it. Write a news report about the discovery.

GILT BRONZE BUCKLE: AD 500–600

- Found in a princely burial in Finglesham, Kent
- Decorated with a male figure holding two spears and wearing a horned helmet.
- The figure might represent the Germanic God Woden.
- Woden was the most important Anglo-Saxon God.
- Woden gave the name Wednesday.
- Other Gods gave us the other days of the week.

RESEARCH Anglo-Saxon Gods and learn the names of the week.



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GILT BRONZE BUCKLE:
AD 500–600

ANGLO-SAXON HIGHLIGHT CARDS

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THE WATLINGTON HOARD: AD 879–880