

Challenge 3: Anglo-Saxon Artwork

We often think of the time before the Normans as a 'dark age', a period when people became less intelligent and cultured, but actually this was a time of wonderful creativity and invention, including art and literature!

The Anglo-Saxons were great **craft workers**. They made intricate **jewellery**, musical **instruments** and homemade **toys** and **games**.

They were also keen **storytellers**. They would gather together in **feasting halls** and tell thrilling stories. Often their stories would be accompanied by music played on an instrument called a **lyre**.

The Saxons liked to play with words too. They amused themselves by telling clever **riddles**.

On the next page are some images of objects created during the Anglo-Saxon period. Some of these objects were found under the ground, buried with important Anglo-Saxon people.

Tasks:

1. Are there any words in the explanation above that you don't recognise? Look them up and write a definition, then draw a picture to help you remember them!
2. What impression do you get of the Anglo-Saxon period based on its artwork? What mattered to the Anglo-Saxons? Write a summary explaining your ideas.
3. Design your own Anglo-Saxon artefact! You could design a helmet, a brooch, a sculpture... it's up to you!

Challenge: If you want to challenge yourself even further, you could make a 3D model!

Share your work with us by emailing it to teamhistory@appletonacademy.co.uk!



A shoulder clasp found at Sutton-Hoo, a famous ship burial from the 600s.



Above: A page from the Lindisfarne Gospels. This book was written and drawn by hand in the early 700s, then gold leaf was stuck to the pages.



Left: The Fuller Brooch, made of silver and niello and dated to the 800s.



Left: A replica of a helmet found at Sutton-Hoo, dated to the 600s.



Left: The remains of a stone cross covered in carvings. The Bewcastle Cross has been dated to the 600s or 700s.