

Anglo Saxon Jewellery



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Did you know that humans have inhabited the site at Tatton Park since 8000 BC? Stone Age people hunted here, Bronze Age farmers also worked the land. The Romans built a road here called Porter Street, and there is evidence that the Anglo Saxons lived here.

Here are a few fun activities for you to try in the classroom or at home.

Activity 1: Jewellery Design

In 2009 in our neighbouring county of Staffordshire, a metal detectorist found a huge "hoard" of precious gold and jewels, the largest collection of Anglo Saxon gold ever found! It lay buried in the ground for 1,400 years! There were 4,000 items including objects made for warriors and jewellery for women.

Use books or the Internet to research the 'Staffordshire Hoard' and look at all of the beautiful things that were discovered.

Design your own piece of Anglo Saxon jewellery from the options below:

1) Bracelet

- Take a long, thin piece of card and wrap it around your wrist like a bracelet. Measure what size you would need it to be so that it doesn't fall off. Cut the card to size.
- Lay the card flat and decorate it however you wish. You could draw, colour in or stick things onto it.
- When you are finished, wrap the bracelet around your wrist like you did at the beginning and secure it with either selotape or a paper clip.
- Wear your design with pride!

2) Ring

- Take a piece of tin foil and roll it into a thin, sausage shape.
- Wrap the tin foil around your finger like a ring. Measure what size you would need it to be so that it doesn't fall off. Cut the foil to size.
- Choose an embellishment for the centre of the ring. It could be button, jewel, sticker or bead. Use a spot of glue to stick this onto the foil ring.
- Wear your design with pride!



3) Brooch

- Choose a shape for your brooch, then trace it onto thick cardboard.
- Ask an adult to help you carefully cut out your shape.
- Decorate the shape however you like, making sure it looks bright and beautiful!
- Using selotape, stick either a safety pin or peg into the reverse of the brooch. Make sure you use a good amount so that it doesn't fall off
- This can be used to attach the brooch onto your clothing
- Wear your design with pride!

TIP: The Anglo Saxons liked to include animal designs in their gold work!

Activity 2: Gold Givers

Anglo Saxon kings were known as "gold givers" and presented items made from beautiful gold and gemstones to their favoured warriors and women folk.

Have a go at making something shiny and be a "gold giver"!

Take a piece of kitchen foil measuring approximately 30 cm X 30cm. Carefully fold it in half, then in half again. Next, take a piece of cardboard measuring approximately 15cm X 15cm and a pencil. Look on the internet for inspiration from the real Viking Hoard and then draw out a design on your cardboard. Go back over your design again with a pencil, pressing down to create an impression. Place your foil over this and gently press down using your fingers.

You will slowly start to see your design come to life through the foil! Now turn the foil over and look at the back. Present your finished product to someone very important.



Activity 3: Beautiful Beads

If you do have some glass beads at home you could recreate the following Anglo Saxon technique. Using a small piece of foil, make some fine lines in it using a sharp pencil or even a fork. Be very careful not to tear the foil as you do this!

Next, place the glass bead over the marked foil and look at the pretty effect it makes. This is how the Anglo Saxons sometimes mounted their gemstones.

You could also try gluing the beads, along with sequins, feathers and other craft materials, onto a piece of card to create your own beautiful artwork! Perhaps you could make this a greetings card for a friend or family member?

