

The Saxons

Activities:

1 Saxons

What do you know?

Very brief recap of existing knowledge.

What survives today and why?

Decay and materials.

The Ford Warrior excavation discussion, including grave goods.

Look at the artefacts. Rot or not?

Object handling and archaeology report sheets to record the objects. Includes sketching and measuring.

2 What would you put in a grave today?

Grave good choices debate with picture cards.

3 Language

Introduction to Runes. Runes spelling challenge.

4 Making a replica brooch

Step by step demonstration of how to make a simple brooch. Each child completes a brooch to take away.

5 Grave ceremony

Costumed 'actors' will perform a funeral ceremony, using the chosen contemporary grave good images.

This is done with humour!

What will we achieve?

To gain a better understanding of the people living in Britain nearly 1000 years ago.

To get an understanding of how archaeologists have been able to discover more about The Saxons by unearthing artefacts.

To handle Saxon objects from Salisbury Museum to help your class discover more about Saxons for themselves.

To use a museum gallery as a resource for research

To learn about Saxon language.

To transfer this knowledge to Saxon craft, making a replica of a Saxon brooch.

Salisbury Museum's Wessex Gallery showcases over 2,500 rare objects which tell the story of early Britain from the mathematical genius of the ancient Britons and Beaker people through to the Roman invasion and the Norman Conquest.

A standard class visit of up to 35 children will include led activities and exploration in the gallery.

The session is designed to be compact and with a pace to keep a class motivated and engaged.

Additional student numbers and additional activities can be discussed with the Learning Officer before your visit and will mean extending your museum day beyond lunch time.



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Pre and Post visit activities

Pre Visit

Your visit to the museum focusses on how archaeologists have discovered goods in the graves of Saxons, and what this can tell us about people in Britain 1,000 years ago. The following activities are suggested before your museum visit.

Post Visit

Follow on activities and research to build on what your class have learnt about the Saxons.

Timeline

Looking at how far back the Saxon period was, and where objects, characters and moments from time sit in that time line.

Book

A Street Through Time:

A 12,000-year Journey Along the Same Street by Dorling Kindersley

BBC British History TimeLine

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/launch_tl_british.shtml

BBC History Anglo-Saxons

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/anglo_saxons/

Look at the Portable Antiquities Scheme and see how finds are recorded and what has been found near you

<http://finds.org.uk/>

Look at the Saxon Collection at Salisbury Museum

<http://www.salisburymuseum.org.uk/collections/romans-saxons>

Activities online and off at the Young Archaeologist's Website

<http://www.yac-uk.org/funandgames>

'Rot or Not'

Make a selection of objects ranging in material and bury in various situations in the school. Try different soil types and moisture and maybe somewhere that is walked over and somewhere that is undisturbed. Record the objects before and after they are buried.