



PEREGRINI Lindisfarne
Landscape Partnership



ANGLO SAXON-Domestic

ARTEFACT BOX





ANGLO SAXON-DOMESTIC ARTEFACT BOX: COMPLETE BOX



1	Necklace	9	Votive Necklace
2	Mould for Cross/Thor's Hammer	10	Bone Comb
3	Runes on Antlers	11	Small Sickle
4	Small Knife	12	Leather Drinking Cup
5	Bone Needle & Thread	13	Spindle Whorl & Wool
6	Caltrop	14	Saucer Brooch
7	Writing on Parchment	15	Leather Ball
8	Ear Spoon	16	Backgammon Game with 13 x red and 15x yellow counters in a Canvas Bag.
9	Votive Necklace	17	AS-Domestic Loan Box- Risk Assessment
		18	Artefact Box Booklet AS-Domestic

Acknowledgements

The artefacts were made by Emma Berry and Andrew Bates of Phenix Studios Ltd of Hexham, Northumberland. <http://www.phenixstudios.com/>



ARTEFACT BOX: ANGLO SAXON-DOMESTIC


Item:1	Brief Description: Necklace
---------------	------------------------------------





Further Information:


- This original of this necklace was found in a female grave.
- This copy is made from clay beads strung on *hide*.

 Explore:

 What is *hide*?

 What other items would Anglo-Saxons have made using hide?

 Why did Anglo-Saxons wear jewellery like necklaces, brooches and rings? What message might it have sent out to others?

 Would only women have worn jewellery?

 What sort of materials were used to make jewellery?

 How was Anglo-Saxon jewellery decorated eg pictures, writing, patterns?

 To have a look at more Anglo-Saxon jewellery and other precious objects at:

<https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/search?q=anglo-saxon%20jewellery>

and

http://www.britishmuseum.org/learning/schools_and_teachers/resources/all_resources/resource_sutton_hoo_slideshow.aspx



ARTEFACT BOX: ANGLO SAXON-DOMESTIC

Item:2	Brief Description: Mould for Cross/Thor's Hammer
---------------	---



Further Information:

- This mould could be used to make either a Christian cross or the symbol of Thor's hammer.
- It is based on a 10th century mould found in Denmark.
- This charm would have been carried around as a protection against harm.
- It comes from the transition period between the pagan beliefs and Christianity when the different religions lived side by side and some people prayed to both pagan and Christian gods –just to be on the safe side!

Explore:

- How would this mould have been used to make the hammer or the cross?
- What sort of Anglo-Saxon would have worn this charm?
- Who was Thor?
- Who were the other Norse gods?
- What were the main differences between pagan and Christian religions?
- What is the link between these pagan gods and the days of the week?
- Have a look at:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/vikings/beliefs_and_stories/



ARTEFACT BOX: ANGLO SAXON-DOMESTIC

Item: 3	Brief Description: Runes on Antler
----------------	---



Further Information:

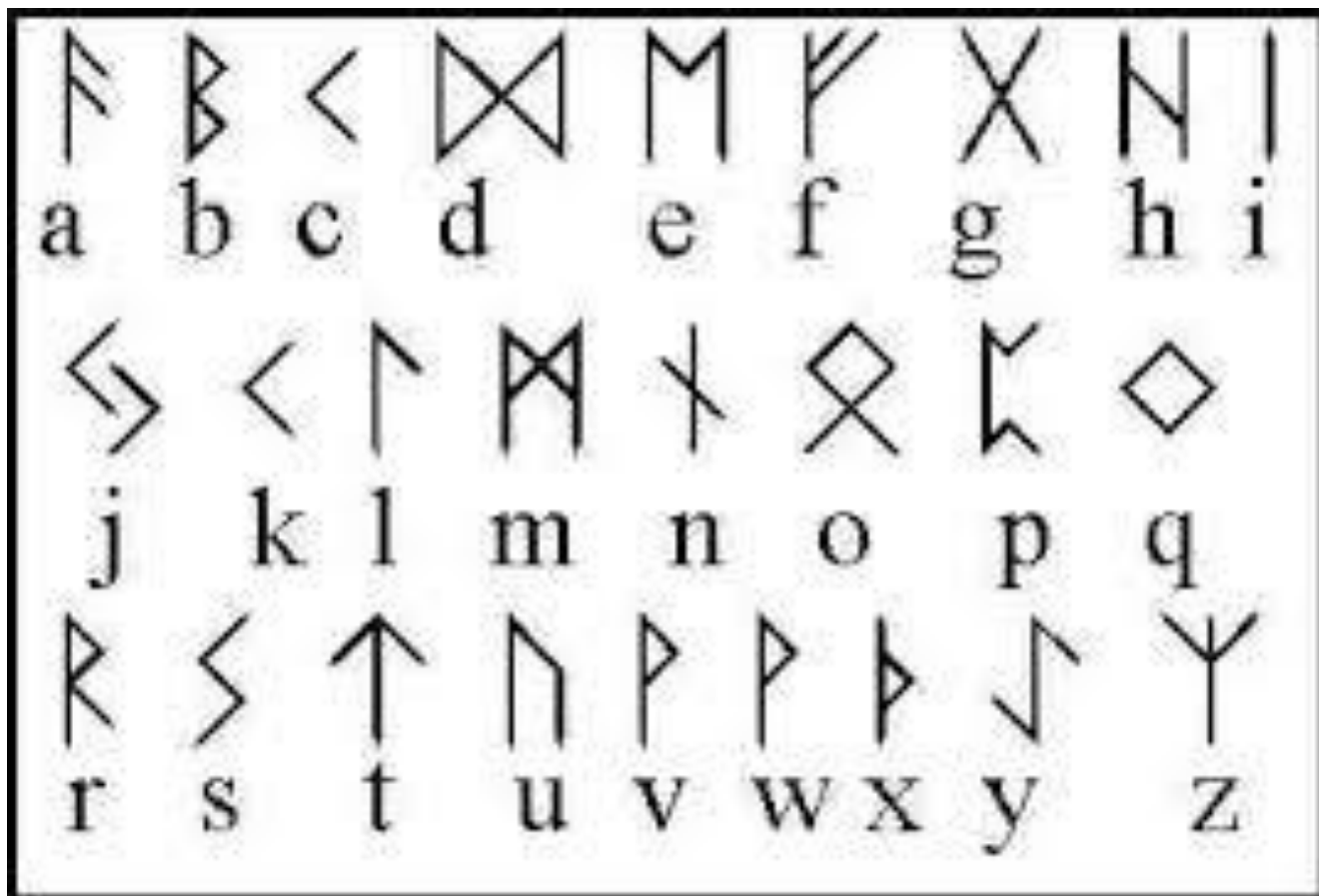
- This was probably a *votive* charm.
- Votive offerings were gifts made to god/gods in the hope of having your prayers answered or to give thanks. Today, people might go to church to light a candle and pray in the same way.
- This charm would have been carried around by someone in the hope that their god would protect them.
- The markings on the antler are known as *runes* –an early form of writing in northern Europe.
- The runes on it are the first five letters of the runic alphabet. They spell out FUTHARK.
- There are several local example of runes. They can be seen on 8th century Anglo-Saxon carved stones in Lindisfarne Priory Museum, Lemmington Woods near Alnwick and the Bewcastle Cross in Cumbria.
- It is also possible that this was used as a learning material.

Explore:

Have a look at the runic alphabet on the next page. Can you write your name out using runes?



RUNIC ALPHABET





ARTEFACT BOX: ANGLO SAXON-DOMESTIC

Item: 4



Brief Description: Small Knife



Further Information:

- This is a general purpose knife.
- If you pick the knife up, you can see how well the shape of it fits into your hand.
- It would have been carried around in a pouch hung from your belt.
- Anglo Saxons would carry all their own precious and useful objects around and use them every day.

 Explore:

-  What sort of tasks would a knife like this be used for?
-  What utensils did Anglo Saxons use to eat with?



ARTEFACT BOX: ANGLO SAXON-DOMESTIC

Item: 5	Brief Description: Bone Needle & Thread
----------------	--



Further Information:

- The needle was made from bone and the thread from *linen*.
- It would be used for stitching and mending various items.
- The Anglo-Saxons used a wide range of natural materials.
- Some would have been found in the local environment and others would have been traded from overseas.
- There were no artificial materials such as plastics or nylons.



Explore:

- What plant does linen come from?
- Where would Anglo-Saxons have found this plant?
- What other items would they have made from linen?

 ARTEFACT BOX: ANGLO SAXON-DOMESTIC

Item: 6

Brief Description: Caltrop



Further Information:

- This was designed to stop horses.
- It was mostly used in warfare and could cause serious injury to horses.
- No matter how you throw this, it will always land in an upright position. Give it a try-but BE CAREFUL!
- The original item in is the British Museum in London.

 Explore:

 What other items would have been used by Anglo Saxon in battle?

 Have a look at:

<https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/search?q=sutton%20hoo>



ARTEFACT BOX: ANGLO SAXON-DOMESTIC

Item: 7	Brief Description: Writing on Parchment
----------------	--



Further Information:

- This copy is from a fragment of the *Beowulf* manuscript.
- *Beowulf* is the thought to be longest epic poem in Old English, the language spoken in Anglo-Saxon England before the Norman Conquest.
- The story is set in 6th century Denmark.
- Some scholars believe it was written by poets belonging to the royal court of the Northumbrian kings.
- But more recent evidence suggest that it was probably written in the 900s.
- Originally, the story would have been passed down as an oral tradition with each *bard* adding bits to the story.
- Eventually, it was written down some time in the 10th century.
- Manuscripts like this would have been found in high status homes.

Explore:

- What is a *bard*?
- Find out more about the *Beowulf* story.
- Have a look at: <https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/beowulf>



ARTEFACT BOX: ANGLO SAXON-DOMESTIC



Item: 8	Brief Description: Ear Scoop/Spoon
----------------	---



Further Information:

- Used for cleaning out your ears! DO NOT TRY THIS!
- Sometimes ear spoons were part of a cosmetic set along with tweezers and a toothpick. They would have hung from your belt like someone might wear a bunch of keys on their belt today.

 Explore:

-  How would this item have been made?
-  What sort of things do you always carry around with you?


ARTEFACT BOX: ANGLO SAXON-DOMESTIC

Item: 9


Brief Description: Votive Necklace





Further Information:

- Made from bone.
- Originally this was thought to be the face of *Odin*. It actually shows one of *Odin*'s priests wearing a headdress.
- If you look closely there are two ravens at the top of the headdress.
- It was worn as a *talisman* and was believed to have magic powers and to bring good luck.
- Many examples of this kind of votive necklace were found at *Sutton Hoo*.

 Explore:

 Remind yourself what *votive* means, See Item 3 for an explanation.

 Find out who *Odin* was.

 What kind of Anglo Saxon would be most likely to wear this for protection?

 Find out about the discoveries made at Sutton Hoo at :

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/worldhistory/sutton_hoo_helmet/

and

http://www.britishmuseum.org/visiting/galleries/europe/room_41_europe_ad_300-1100.aspx



ARTEFACT BOX: ANGLO SAXON-DOMESTIC

Item: 10

Brief Description: Bone Comb



Further Information:

- This is a rare example of a bone comb as it is made from a single piece of bone.
- Normally combs would have been made from separate pieces which would have been riveted together.
- The original of this was found at Oxford.

Explore:

- What sort of person would have owned a comb made from a single piece of bone like this one?
- How has it been decorated?
- How similar is it to a comb today? Why do you think it's similar? [Clue: It has something to do with the size of nits!]



ARTEFACT BOX: ANGLO SAXON-DOMESTIC

Item: 11 Brief Description: Small Sickle



Further Information:

- This was found at a mediaeval site in Wales.
- If you look at the wooden handle you will see scorch marks.
- These were made when the heated metal *tang* of the *sickle* was pushed into the wood to secure it.

Explore:

- Find out what a *sickle* is.
- What job would it have been used for?
- Look at the other Anglo Saxon knives and tools here and try to work out what each tool would have been used for.

[https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/asset/the-hurbuck-
hoard/TwEeHV9ctrGm4A](https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/asset/the-hurbuck-
hoard/TwEeHV9ctrGm4A)



ARTEFACT BOX: ANGLO SAXON-DOMESTIC

Item: 12	Brief Description: Leather Drinking Cup
-----------------	--



Further Information:

- This leather drinking cup is stitched with linen thread.
- It was soaked and lined with melted beeswax which penetrated the leather making it watertight.

Explore:

What other items did Anglo Saxons use to drink from?

Have a look at these drinking horns:

<https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/asset/pair-of-drinking-horns/AgFOnzCQg8KEKA>

What materials are they made from?

What sort of Anglo Saxon might have used a drinking horn?



ARTEFACT BOX: ANGLO SAXON-DOMESTIC


Item: 13 Brief Description: Spindle Whorl





Further Information:

- Made from native Scot's pine and clay.
- Used for spinning wool.
- Spindle whorls were used as early as the Neolithic period and are still used in some parts of the world today.
- The textiles used to make clothing and other useful objects were woven on looms.
- Spinning and weaving would have been a very time-consuming household task.
- Whorls like the one above were used to weight the end of sticks called spindles, which hand-spinners used to twist wool into yarn for weaving.
- Some whorls were made from sandstone, although spindle whorls can also be made from other types of stone, bone or clay like the one above.


 Explore:

 Find out how a spindle whorl is used to spin wool? **Describe the process in a flow chart.**

 What would they have used to dye the wool different colours?

 Watch this [video clip](#) of someone showing you how a spindle whorl was used:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocbRbd54Hiw>

 Watch this [video clip](#) of an archaeologist explaining more about spindle whorls:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6TGuypgXms>



ARTEFACT BOX: ANGLO SAXON-DOMESTIC

Item: 14

Brief Description: Saucer Brooch



Further Information:

- Ornamental.
- The original brooch would have been made from gold or other precious metal.
- There is possibly a picture of a face on the front of the brooch.
- It was fastened with a pin at the back which looked similar to a modern safety pin. It would have been made from twisted piece of metal.

Explore:

What is the difference between a necklace, a brooch, a pendant and a ring?

What practical use might a brooch have had?

You can have a look here at other brooches and clasps

<https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/search?q=Algo%20Saxon%20brooches>



ARTEFACT BOX: ANGLO SAXON-DOMESTIC

Item: 15

Brief Description: Leather Ball



Further Information:

- Children's ball from Scandinavia.
- Made from goatskin stuffed with wool.

 Explore:

 Have a look at these interactive Anglo Saxon games:

http://anglosaxondiscovery.ashmolean.org/teachers_resources/games.html

 Find out more about Anglo-Saxon games and pastimes here:

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



ARTEFACT BOX: ANGLO SAXON-DOMESTIC

Item: 16

Brief Description: Game & Counters




Further Information:

- Game of backgammon with counters
- Backgammon is one of the oldest board games known.
- It is normally a game for two players where the counters are moved according to the roll of a dice
- A player wins by removing all of their pieces from the board before their opponent
- Backgammon involves a combination of strategy and luck (from rolling dice).

 **Explore:**

 Find out how to play backgammon. Have a look at

<https://www.thespruce.com/setting-up-a-backgammon-board-409277>

 Alternatively, you could make up some quiz questions about the items in this box and use them instead of a dice to play a game on the board.


 You could also turn it into a team game rather than for just two players.

PS You will need to make up your own set of rules too!




ARTEFACT BOX: ANGLO SAXON-DOMESTIC

GENERAL QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE


 The objects in this box help us find out about the different skills and trades Anglo-Saxons had. Look at the box and find evidence for each trade shown below. Record your evidence in writing or as a drawing:

Potter Blacksmith Goldsmith

Weaving Leather work Carving

 Choose an object from the box and think about the skills and processes that would have been used to make it. **Draw a flow diagram to show the processes and stages in its manufacture.**

For instance, to make an item of clothing, you might need to collect some sheep's wool and clean it. Then, you would find some suitable plant material and dye the wool. Next, you would need to spin the wool into thread and then weave it to make the cloth. Finally, the cloth would have to be cut to shape and sewn together to make the finished item.

 Look at the box, how many objects can you record for each material on the table below?

Horn	Wood	Pottery
Leather	Fabric	Iron

• **Once you have finished, discuss these questions in your group:**

- Which materials did you find the most examples of?
- Why do you think that these materials survived so well?
- Which materials were there less of? Why do you think this is?
- Did you find any other materials?

🎨 Think about the original source of each of the different materials found in the box. **Make a chart** of the **different materials** used by Anglo Saxons detailing:

- their **source** eg animal vegetable or mineral, and;
- their **known uses**.

🎨 You could make a similar chart for material used today and then compare the two charts. **Think about:**

- Has there been a change in the main source of materials?
- What sorts of objects are made from which material in each of the periods? Are any the same? Are any different?

🎨 Design your own brooch. Start of by drawing your design on paper. You can then transfer your design to another medium. For instance, you could cut out the shape of the brooch in dark coloured card and draw the design on using a silver or gold pen. Or, you could cover the piece of card in foil and then press the design onto the foil using a blunt pencil.

Useful Links

<http://anglosaxondiscovery.ashmolean.org/index.html>

<https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/vikings/beliefs_and_stories/





ARTEFACT BOX: ANGLO SAXON-DOMESTIC



Explore: Anglo-Saxon Riddles

[Taken from <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/sll/disciplines/english/beowulf/riddle.htm>]

- Anglo-Saxons loved riddles. Whilst they were feasting, they often told each other riddles and listened to poems. Some of the riddles were written down eg in *The Exeter Book*, so we are able to read them today.
- Some Anglo-Saxon riddles have even survived as playground rhymes. The one below comes from Tiptree, Essex. This riddle is probably over a thousand years old. It has been kept alive by children learning it from one another and repeating it in the playground. Can you guess what animal this is?

Four dilly-dandies (teats on the udder)
Four stick standies (legs)
Two crookers (horns)
Two lookers (eyes)
And a wig wag (tail)

[The answer is a cow]

- Try this one from *Beowulf*. Can you guess what this object is? There are lots of them in the story of Beowulf.


I am all on my own,
Wounded by iron weapons and scarred by swords.
I often see battle.
I am tired of fighting.
I do not expect to be allowed to retire from warfare
Before I am completely done for.
At the wall of the city, I am knocked about
And bitten again and again.
Hard edged things made by the blacksmith's hammer attack me.
Each time I wait for something worse.
I have never been able to find a doctor who could make me better
Or give me medicine made from herbs.
Instead the sword gashes all over me grow bigger day and night.

[The answer is a shield]



LOTTERY FUNDED



 How about this one?


When I am alive I do not speak.
Anyone who wants to takes me captive and cuts off my head.
They bite my bare body
I do no harm to anyone unless they cut me first.
Then I soon make them cry.

[The answer is an onion]

 This last one is about a bird. Can you guess what kind of bird it is?

I was abandoned by my mother and father.
I wasn't yet breathing.
A kind woman covered me with clothes,
Kept me and looked after me,
Cuddled me as close as if I had been her own child.
Under that covering I grew and grew.
I was unkind to my adopted brothers and sisters.
This lovely woman fed me
Until I was big enough to set out on my own.
She had fewer of her own dear sons and daughters because she did so.

[The answer is a cuckoo]

 Try to make up your own riddle?