

Anglo-Saxon Capsule (AS-CAP)

This collection contains a variety of Anglo-Saxon replica artefacts to support and enhance learning about this time in history.



1.

Contents: -

1. 10 x Anglo-Saxon coins
2. 1 x Cooking Pot
3. 32 x Anglo-Saxon Runes
4. 1 x Set of Anglo-Saxon Pottery Stamps
(Contents may vary)

2.



4.

3.

Questions you could ask children about the artefacts

Initial Discussion

- What is this object?
- Does it resemble anything the children have seen?
- What do you think the item was used for and by whom?
- Does anyone know what it is called?

Collect any other questions the children might have about the artefacts and display them as you try to find the answers through your learning sessions.

Other questions to consider:

- Where does the object come from?
- Who might have made this object? And how were they made?
- Why were they made?
- **What do the objects tell us about life in Anglo-Saxon times?** *This last question can be returned to at the end of the investigation.*

All About the Artefacts

1. Anglo-Saxon Coins

Find out about Anglo-Saxon money and how rich and important people used coins as gifts, to buy land, pay taxes, fines and for trade. Every coin will be able to tell a story. Early Anglo-Saxons probably did not use coins and later when coins were made, they would have been very valuable. As there were few coins in Anglo-Saxon times coins would be cut in half to reduce the value when needed.

2. Cooking Pot

Essential for cooking a variety of food, including grains, meat and vegetables. Anglo-Saxons were good at metal work and pottery and a range of pots were used on a daily basis.

Potters would dig clay from the ground, often near rivers and use techniques such as coiling to create pots.

Use clay to make own pots and use the technique of coiling.

3. Runes

Runes are the alphabet used by Anglo-Saxons for writing. The symbols were made from straight lines which made them easier to carve into objects like stone. Runes can often be found on gravestones. Runes means secret or mystery and were thought to hold some religious and magical significance. There were 28 letters in the Anglo-Saxon alphabet.

Create a runic alphabet chart and use it to write and translate names and messages.

4. Pottery stamps

Used to decorate hand-made pottery and to create patterns. The stamps were usually made from bone or antler. By studying pottery and the stamps we can learn about the lives and culture of the Anglo-Saxons.

Make your own pottery pots and used found objects as pottery stamps to make own patterns and designs.

Bury the artefacts in sand and create your own class archaeological dig. Make it clear that the artefacts are fragile and need to be excavated with care. Plastic pallet knives and paint brushes are ideal for this activity.

Section up the dig into square areas so that each child or group can work on one area. When they have found their artefact task them to fill out an 'artefact report' where they draw the artefact and describe its features and likely uses. Encourage them to do further research and then report back what they have found out, labelling and displaying their artefact to create a classroom museum of finds.

Use the artefacts to find out about Anglo-Saxon lifestyle and culture. Visit local museums or historical sites that feature Anglo-Saxon exhibits. Read Anglo-Saxon inspired literature such as 'Beowulf' by Michael Morpurgo.

Reference Websites:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/articles/zhtdd6f>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxsbcdm>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztyr9j6>