

Anglo-Saxon Runes^(AS-RUNE)

This collection contains a set of Anglo-Saxon runes.



Set Includes:

32 wooden runes

Storage bag

Help Sheet explaining what each symbol represents

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?

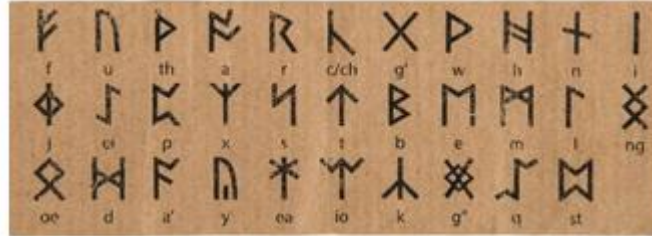
Collect any other questions the children might have about the artefacts and display them as you try to find the answers through your learning sessions.

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

Anglo-Saxon 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.

They were originally from the Germanic/Scandinavian areas but spread throughout northern Europe. They were first used in the 2nd century AD.

Activities to Try

- Copy the chart and practise writing the symbols. Use the chart to write and translate names and messages. Change your name into a runic name (There is not a complete alphabet so use the runes that sound correct for your name).
- Enjoy writing and reading coded messages using the runes and explore the meaning. See if you can de-code each other's messages.
- Write a school/class motto that can be decorated and displayed.
- Find out about the Anglo-Saxon language and try writing some Anglo-Saxon words using runes.

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>

