



THE BEANEY
HOUSE OF ART
& KNOWLEDGE

Make Your Own Anglo Saxon Jewellery

Take inspiration from our Anglo Saxon collection and ask you to take an imaginary journey back in time with us.

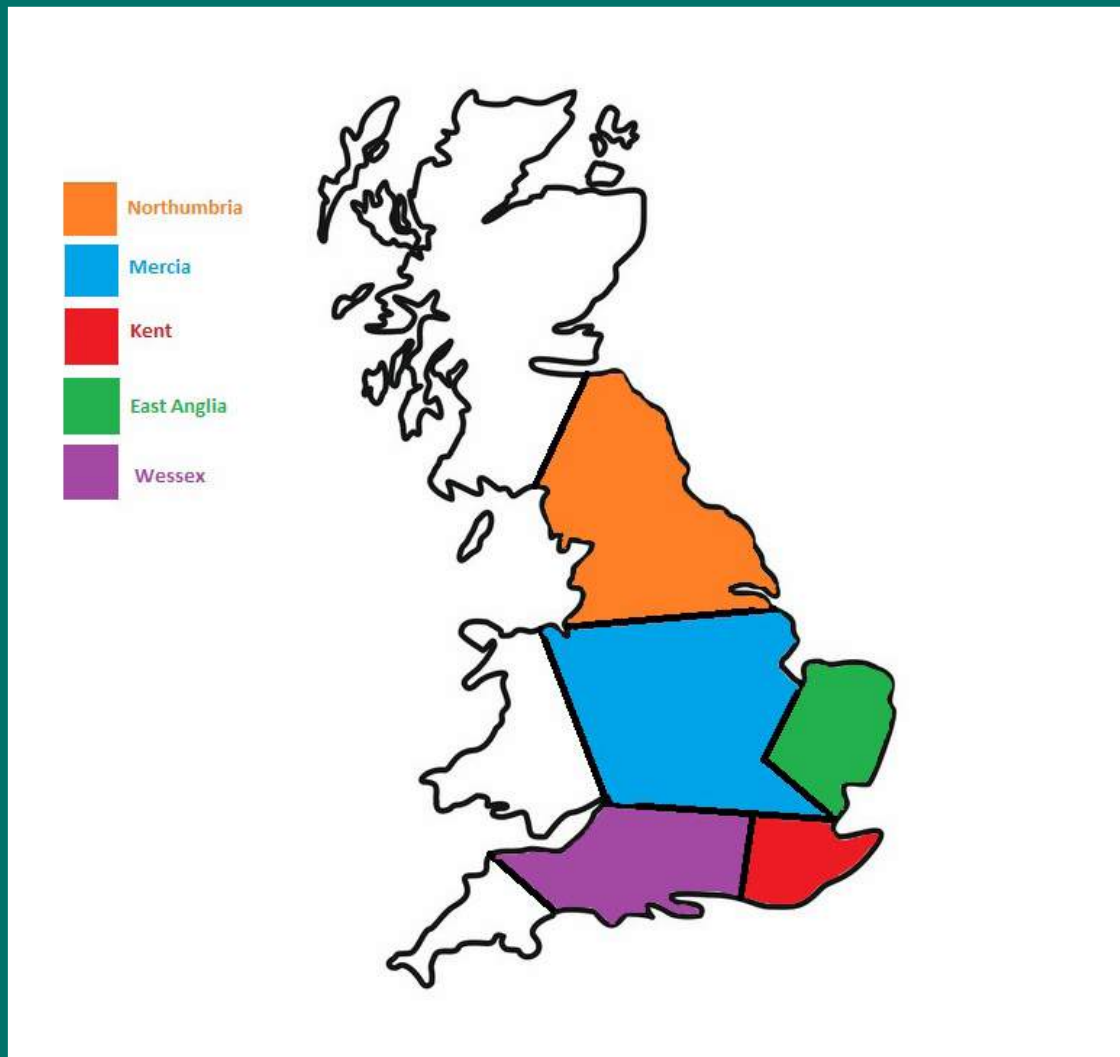


Who were the Anglo Saxons?

After the Romans left Britain in AD 410, other groups came to settle here from elsewhere in Europe. The main tribes were the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes.

The different tribes came from Denmark, Germany, and the Netherlands. Why not try to find these countries on a map? *What do you think the journey would have been like?*

By AD 600, after much fighting by the various tribes, five main kingdoms had been formed in England: Kent, Mercia, Northumbria, East Anglia, and Wessex.



What was Anglo Saxon life like?

Unlike the Romans (who used stones and cement to build), the Anglo Saxons used wood to build their homes, and would live in villages. Each home was usually only one room!

At first most people were farmers. But by the early 10th century, Anglo Saxon kings had created fortified settlements called *burhs*. These were more than just forts. They were also flourishing little market towns. In the towns, craftspeople worked with iron, leather, bone, and wood.

What's in The Beaney's Anglo Saxon Kingdom of Kent Case?

Some of the most interesting Anglo-Saxon items in our collection are items of jewellery dating from the 5th to 8th centuries. At that time the Kingdom of Kent was wealthy, well connected and known for its outstanding craftsmanship

Take a closer look at some of our Anglo Saxon Jewellery!

These brooches show you how skilled the Anglo Saxons were at making intricate designs from metal.



Image: ©Dorling Kindersley / Canterbury City Council, Museums and Galleries



The red pieces you can see in these examples are made from garnets. Garnets are red gemstones. Today, we still do not know the technology they used to cut garnets so precisely!

One of the most popular Anglo Saxon items at The Beaney is our Anglo Saxon Dragon Pendant



Period: **9th Century AD, Anglo-Saxon**

Location: **Monkton, Kent**

Material: **Gold sheet & gold wire**

Find me: **in Anglo Saxon Kingdom of Kent, Explorers and Collectors, The Beaney**

Found buried in the ground in Kent, this item would have been worn around the neck by a wealthy Anglo Saxon.

The pendant is in the form of a dragon, or 'draca' in Old English. It is quite tiny, only 18.35mm wide and weighs a minuscule 1.19g. It's made from gold and has one red garnet set into its eye. The gem from its other eye was lost long ago!

The dragon was an important symbol in the times of the Anglo Saxons. It's thought that people may have worn items like this dragon pendant as a kind of lucky charm, something that would protect you and give you strength!

So you've learned some things about Anglo Saxons and their jewellery in particular.

NOW IT'S TIME TO MAKE YOUR OWN ANGLO SAXON JEWELLERY!

You will need the following things

- Paper
- Pencil or pen
- Cardboard (check your recycling!)
- Kitchen foil
- Scissors
- Glue or sellotape
- Coloured pens, paint or paper
- String, ribbon or wool



Important:

Remember, make sure you tell an adult what you are doing and ask permission to use anything that you are going to need for this activity!

DESIGNING

First, you will have to design your jewellery! Take some inspiration from the interesting Anglo Saxon Designs in our collection.



Intricate designs made up of interlocking shapes like this one were very popular with the Anglo Saxons. Maybe you like it too? If so, start sketching and see what you come up with!

The Anglo Saxons also incorporated lots of animals into their designs, such as birds, fish and serpents! We have some very interesting examples at The Beaney.



Images: ©Dorling Kinderley / Canterbury City Council, Museums and Galleries

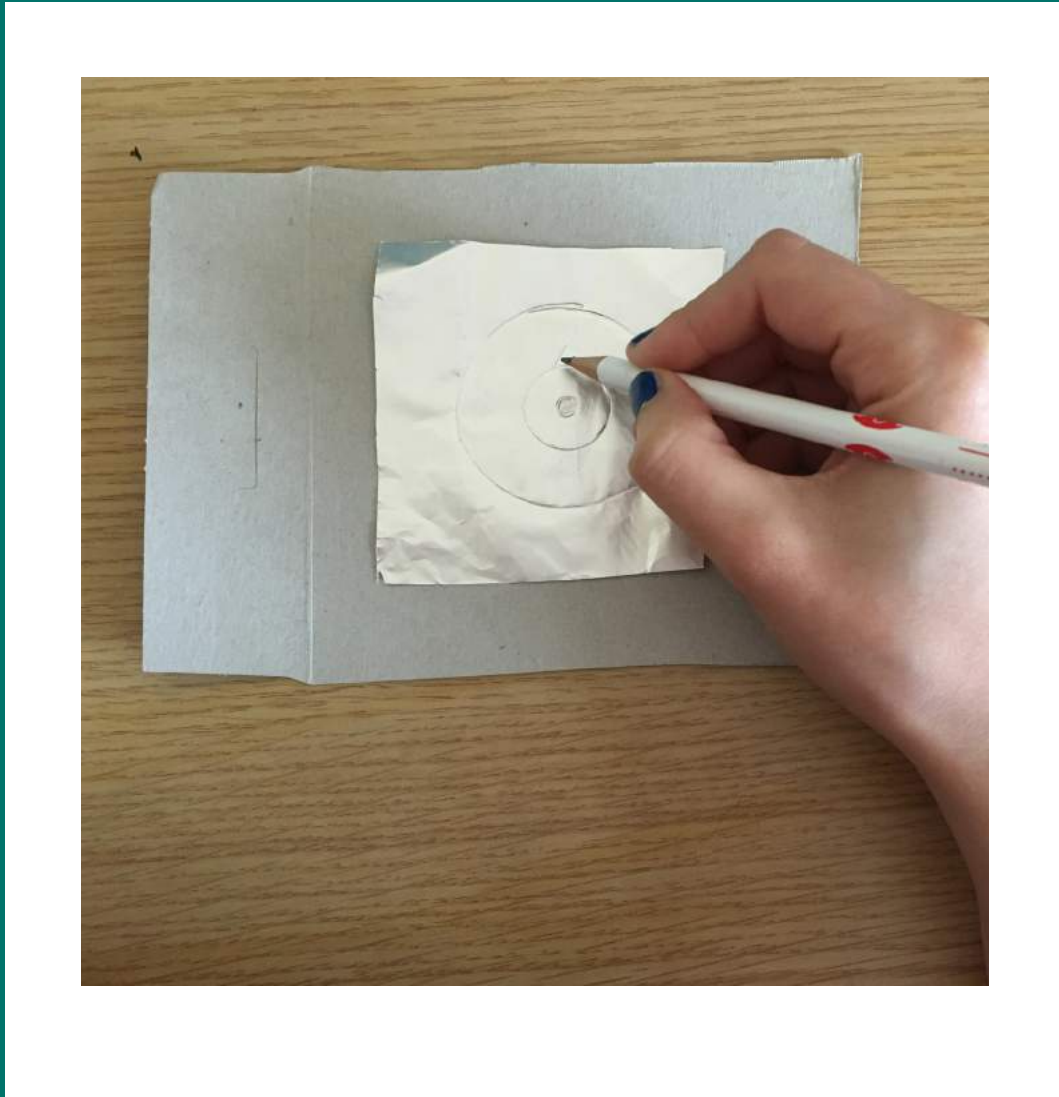


It's possible that these bird designs are crows or ravens, symbols of the pagan god Woden. Woden was said to have two ravens that travelled the world bringing him information!

Maybe your design will be inspired by an animal. You might have a pet at home or a favourite animal? If you like this idea, make some sketches!

DRAWING

Once you have decided on your design, you can draw it onto your foil. We have put the foil on top of some cardboard to make sure we don't damage the table.



STICKING

Now you have finished the pattern on your jewellery, you need to stick it onto some cardboard to make it stronger!

You can use glue or sellotape (or anything else you have) to stick the foil to a piece of cardboard.

Make sure you stick the foil down on the side you drew on, as the image should be raised on the other side of it.

CUTTING OUT

For this stage you will need scissors, make sure an adult is supervising when you use them.

Cut around the outside of your design to make the shape you want it to be.



COLOUR

Now you will need to add some colour!

If you need some inspiration look back at the images we showed you earlier. The Anglo Saxons loved **red garnets** but they were very fond of **amber** and **purple amethyst** too.

If you have paint you can carefully paint on areas to look like gemstones.

You might cut out pieces to look like gemstones from paper or some other material!

Make sure that everything is dry!



WEAR IT!

Once your jewellery is dry, you can think of ways to wear it!

We have taped some wool on the back of ours to make a necklace!

You could use string or ribbon. If you do this too, make sure you use enough string, wool or ribbon so that you can easily remove your necklace.

Remember you need to be very careful when wearing anything around your neck so ask an adult for help!

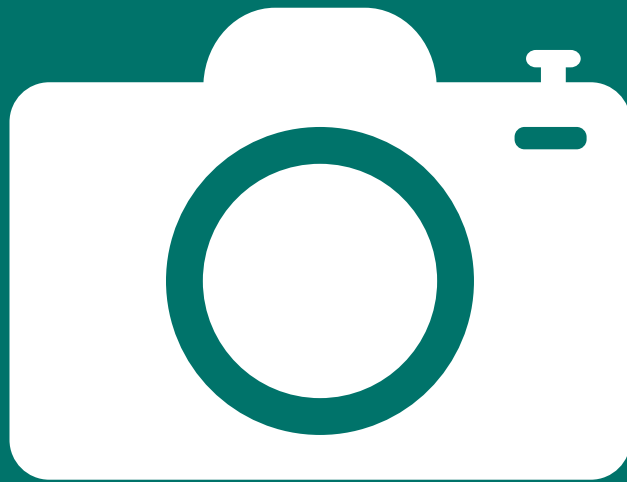


CONGRATULATIONS!

You're now an expert Anglo Saxon craftsperson!

We'd love to see your Anglo Saxon inspired creations!

Be sure to take a few photos of your jewellery and share them with us.



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