

Anglo-Saxon villages



Roman



Anglo-Saxon

After the Romans left Britain in the 5th Century, most Anglo-Saxons didn't want to live in the Roman towns and cities. Many

Anglo-Saxons preferred to live in small villages. This meant that most of the Roman buildings and baths were left to go to ruin and became overgrown with weeds and grasses.

Anglo-Saxon villages would have been quite small with only a few hundred people living in them. They would have been built close to natural resources, providing the villagers with what they needed such as rivers for water and fish; and wooded areas used for fuel and building shelters. A village would also have had a high fence around it to protect the villagers at night from enemies and wild animals such as wolves and boars.



Anglo-Saxon houses

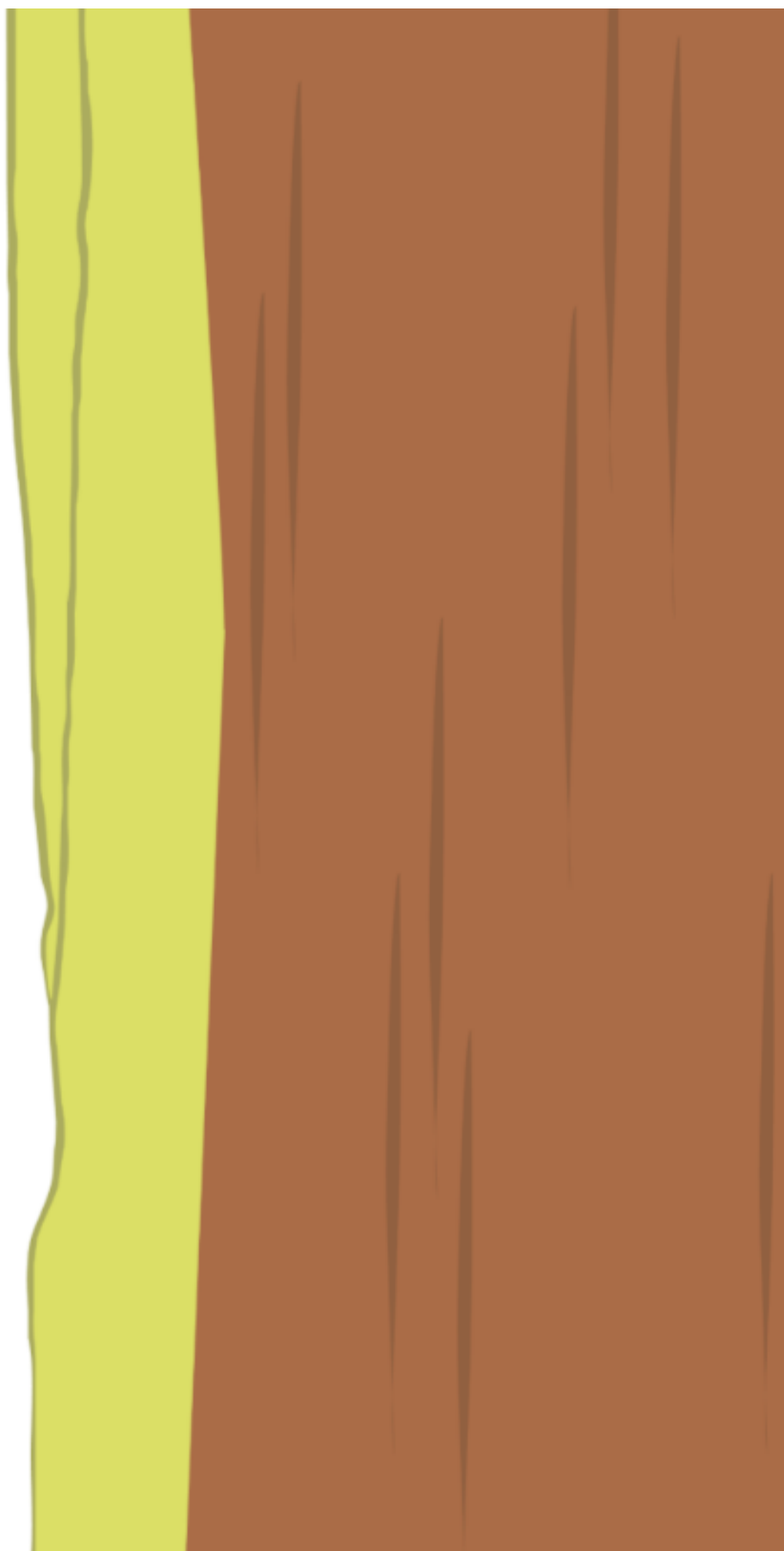
The type of houses that The Anglo Saxons lived in would have been rectangular huts made of wood with roofs thatched with straw. Each family house had one room with a hearth and with a fire for cooking, heating and light. They would have been built facing the sun to get as much heat and light as possible. The biggest house in the village would have been the hall where the chief lived with his warriors.

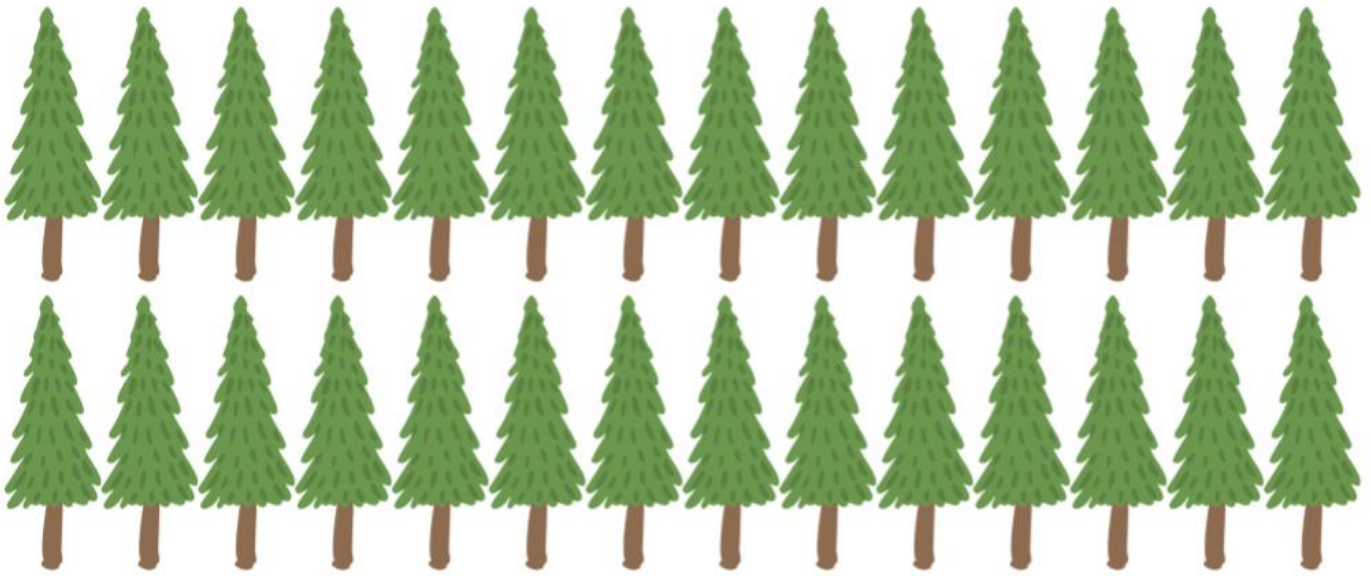


TASK 1

Create your own Anglo-Saxon village poster.

You can either print off the sheets below and cut out the pictures and labels to create a collage of an Anglo-Saxon village; or if you prefer, you can draw your own village and write your own labels.(feel free to add extra things)





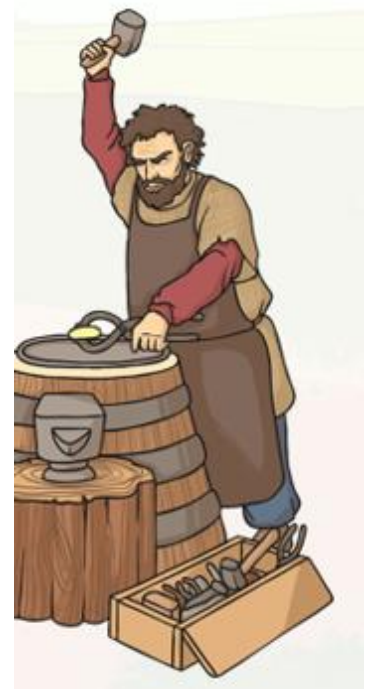
Labels for your Anglo-Saxon village

<p>The chief of the village lived in a larger house in the centre of the village. This house might also contain a meeting hall.</p>	<p>The Anglo-Saxons positioned their villages near a water source, such as a river or lake, which would provide drinking water and fish to eat.</p>
<p>Livestock was kept in fields in the village. Children would often be responsible for looking out for wolves, which were wild in Britain during the Anglo-Saxon times.</p>	<p>Fields for growing crops were ploughed over to prepare them for planting. Oxen would pull a basic plough which was called an ard.</p>
<p>Family groups living in smaller village houses.</p>	<p>Some buildings were reserved for specific purposes, such as space for performing a craft, like weaving, or as storage units.</p>
<p>Pots made from clay were fired (dried out and hardened) on a large open fire.</p>	<p>Woodland on the edge of the village was looked after carefully to ensure they had a good supply of wood for building.</p>

Village jobs

Everyone in an Anglo-Saxon village helped in some way to run it. There were lots of different everyday jobs to be done, these included:

- Clearing and ploughing the land.
- Grinding flour and baking bread.
- Growing crops and looking after animals.
- Blacksmiths who forged metal to make weapons
- Woodworkers made bowls, wheels, furniture and homes
- Jewellers made brooches and ornaments for rich Anglo-Saxons



In the House



What can you see happening inside this house? What can this picture teach us about how the Anglo-Saxons lived?

People played instruments to provide entertainment. This man is playing a lyre.

The roof of the house is thatched with straw.

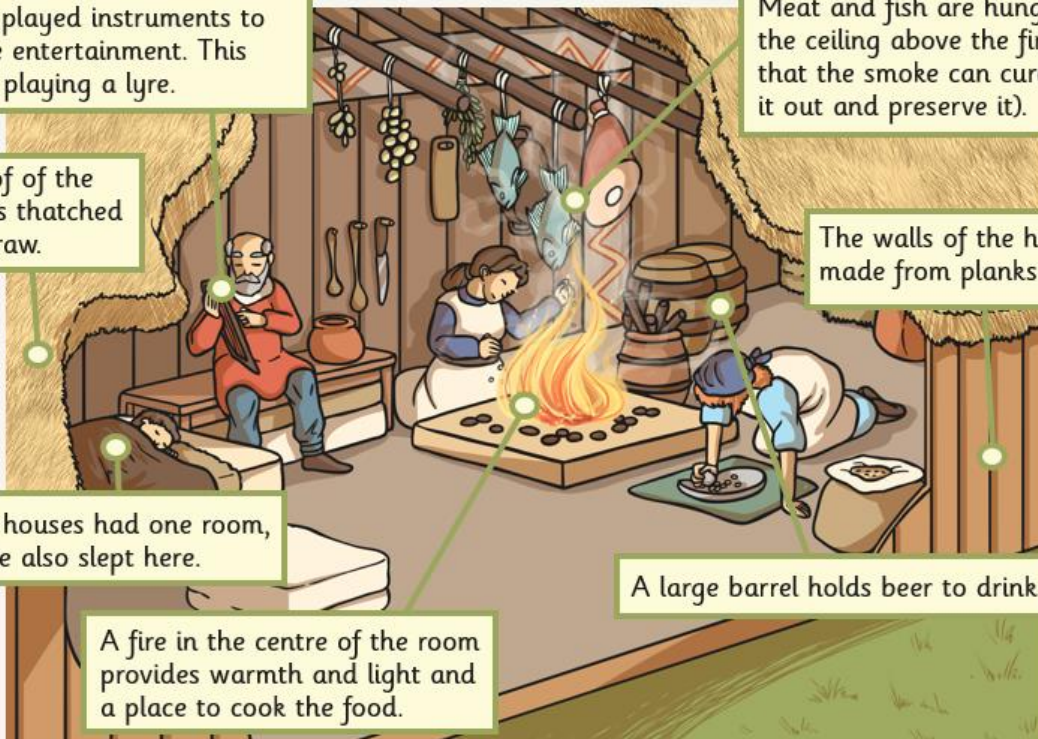
Meat and fish are hung up at the ceiling above the fire so that the smoke can cure it (dry it out and preserve it).

The walls of the house are made from planks of wood.

Most houses had one room, people also slept here.

A fire in the centre of the room provides warmth and light and a place to cook the food.

A large barrel holds beer to drink.



TASK 2

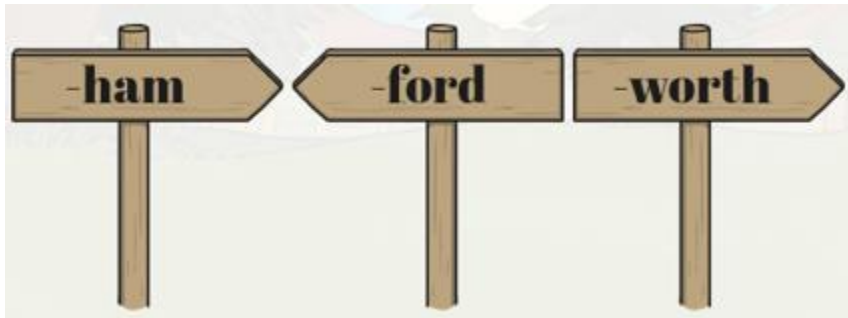
Answer these questions about the inside of an Anglo-Saxon house:

1. Why was meat and fish hung above the fire?
2. What was the roof made from?
3. What were the walls made from?
4. Why did they have a fire in the centre of the room?
5. Make a list of six things you notice inside the house.

Place names

Many of the names of towns and villages in Britain come from the Anglo-Saxons, including 'England' which comes from the Saxon word 'Angle-Land'

Lots of our place names share similarities.



TASK 3

You will need a map, UK atlas or ask permission to use the internet.

Find place names around Britain that end with -ham, -ford or -worth?

These all originate from Anglo-Saxon place names, telling us that they were once an Anglo-Saxon settlement. They mean:

-ham village

-ford river crossing

-worth enclosure

Here are some web sites you can use to find out more about the Anglo-Saxons. (Ask permission first)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxsbcdm/articles/zq2m6sg>

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/general-history/anglo-saxons/>

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Anglo-Saxons>

(Some images, clip art and resources taken from twinkl)