

Stories from the Grave: Anglo-Saxon Oxford

A KS2 History Workshop

Workshop Outline

Step into Anglo-Saxon Oxford with our interactive workshop. Students explore artifacts, dress in replica costumes, and uncover Anglo-Saxon Oxford through engaging activities. From archaeological insights to gallery scavenger hunts, this session aligns with KS2 History, encouraging critical thinking and group discussion. This session uses hands-on experiences and guided exploration, ensuring a memorable and educational journey into the past.



Session Aims

This is a workshop for KS2 pupils to support the study of Anglo-Saxons. The session explores what life was like in Anglo-Saxon Oxford. Pupils will have a chance to handle objects, explore maps, try on replica clothing and recreate a Saxon brooch.

How does the day work?



This Museum-based workshop takes 2 hours; we offer up to two sessions a day starting at 10am or 12.30pm. After a whole class introduction to a Saxon burial, we split the class up into four smaller groups who carousel around four tasks that take place both in the Museum gallery space and our dedicated learning rooms. The sessions

ends back together where we share what was discovered about Anglo-Saxon Oxford.

Outline of the Session

Welcome

We begin the session with a burial found in Headington of an Anglo-Saxon woman. We discuss the significance of the burial and the finds found within. As a whole class, we explore the clothing that would have been worn at the time with the opportunity for a few children to model realistic replica outfits.

Task 1 – Object Handling

As a smaller group, pupils handle a mix of original, replica and reproduction Anglo-Saxon items that have been found in archaeological digs in and around Oxford. They work together to discover each object and what it tells us about Anglo-Saxon life in Oxford.

Task 2 – Anglo-Saxon Brooches

Pupils take a closer look at the role and design bronze disk brooches have in Anglo-Saxon costumes. With the resources provided, pupils create their own brooch in the same style as found in archaeological digs.



Task 3 - Saints and Kings

Using the objects on open display, pupils look at some everyday Anglo-Saxon items to further their understanding of what life was like. There is also an opportunity to discover St Frideswide's story beside her Saxon carved gravestone.



Task 4 - How has Saxon Oxford changed?

Using Ordnance Survey and recreated maps, along with objects on public display, pupils explore what had remained and what has changed in Oxford since Anglo-Saxon times.

Plenary

As a whole group, we share what was discovered about Anglo-Saxon Oxford.

Supporting Resources

A session pre-visit resource pack is available to download from our website and can be emailed to you on request. A post-visit resource pack will be sent after the

session. Within these packs there are some activities complementary to the Museum visit that will support your groups learning.

A gallery workshop, available to download from our website and can be emailed on request, is also available. All activities can be delivered without the worksheet, but it will aid learning and evidencing learning should you wish to use it. The Museum is unable to print copies but please print yourself and bring them along should you wish to use it.

Curriculum links

KS 2 History

- Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots (Anglo-Saxon invasions, settlements and kingdoms: place names and village life; Anglo-Saxon art and culture; Christian conversion)
- The Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor. (Viking raids and invasion)

KS 2 English (Reading & Comprehension Lower KS2)

- Retrieve and record information from non-fiction (from museum displays and workshop resources)

KS2 English (Reading & Comprehension Upper KS2)

- Distinguish between statements of fact and opinion (opposing views on workshop resources).
- Retrieve, record, and present information from non-fiction (using museum gallery displays and workshop resources).

Workshop costs

The workshop is 2 hours long and costs £4 per student, with a minimum charge of £75 per session. Maximum number of pupils per session is 34. Supervising adults are free of charge.

We may be able to offer the use of a room for 30 minutes for lunch. There is a £10 fee for use of a lunchroom. Please request this on enquiry.

There is a single £5 invoice raising fee should you need an invoice. Should you wish to make multiple trips in a single booking, we will only apply this fee to the first session to cover the whole series of visits. We offer different payment methods such as card or cheque in the shop on the day.

How to book

Email the Museum: museum@oxford.gov.uk

Call the Museum: 01865 252334

Finally, you can visit our website for more information:

[https://museumofoxford.org/.](https://museumofoxford.org/)