

Activity 1: Costume – Dress like an Anglo Saxon

Choose five pupils to try on the costumes. They will be the models for the rest of the class to learn about how Anglo Saxons might have dressed.

There are 3 peasant tunics and 2 warrior outfits with shields and swords. Pupils can sit around the costume area.

- Anglo-Saxons didn't have plastic and they didn't buy their clothes in shops. Because they lived so long ago we don't always know what they would have worn. The warriors look like how people thought Anglo Saxons would dress but they are probably not what they actually looked like.

Let's think about their **helmets**:

- Aethelflaed's Anglo Saxons were often defending themselves against Danish Viking **invaders**. The picture of the metal helmet (not the plastic ones) is very similar to what would have been worn by the Anglo Saxons fighting the Vikings. **Archaeologists** have found them buried in the ground.
- What do you notice about the way it looks? (*It has a nose guard and a chainmail 'curtain' at the back to protect your neck.*)
- What does this tell you about the Anglo Saxons? (*Metal helmets were very expensive so not many Anglo Saxons could afford a helmet like this.*)

Now look at the **swords**:

- These swords are made of plastic. What do you think that they would really be made of? (*Iron with steel edges were used.*)
- What does this tell you about the Anglo Saxons? (*They had to fight and protect themselves from **invaders**.*)
- The longer sword looks close to what Anglo Saxon and Vikings swords looked like, although it is still made of plastic.

And finally the peasant **tunics**:






- What material do you think these are made of? (*Natural materials like wool that would keep you warm and you could find around you.*)
- What is the difference between these outfits, which are quite similar to what the Anglo Saxons wore, and the warriors' outfits? (*What people imagine about the past is not always how things really were.*)

Activity 2: Anglo Saxon Pennies

These are Anglo Saxon coins. The oldest coin is over 1200 years old. The newest is over 1000 years old.

Give out the large pictures of the coins with one per group or look at them as a class. Take 5 minutes to look at the coins and discuss what pupils can see. Pupils should look for images, letters, numbers and symbols.

Each group should then choose a spokesperson to tell the class their findings. You can then tell them a bit more information about what they have found out.

Coin 1	Who do you think that is a picture of? <i>It is a king. He is King Cnut, the king that in a story tried to stop the tide.</i>	
Coin 2	Do the edges look rough or smooth? <i>They are quite rough because they were cut using a hand held tool. This is the oldest coin and it shows King Offa, who some people used to believe was buried in Offchurch quite near here.</i>	
Coin 3	Do you think the King really looked like that? <i>No, it probably doesn't look anything like him but it does look quite fierce! It is William I, the 'Conqueror'.</i>	
Coin 4	Why do you think the coin has a cross on it? <i>The Anglo Saxons were Christians so they put a cross on their coins to represent their religion.</i>	
Coin 5	Do you think this coin is easy to read? <i>Often the people that were cutting out the letters for coins didn't know how to read so they might not write the letters properly.</i>	

- The Anglo Saxons mostly made their coins out of silver. If you wanted to spend less than a penny you would cut it in half or into quarters.
- How is this different to our coins now?
- Before the Anglo Saxons had money, what do you think they would pay with?
(Anglo Saxons would trade their cattle or food for other things.)

The Warwick Pageant Display

Take some time to look at the Warwick Pageant film and souvenirs on the way back to the Craft Studio. This was a big celebration where hundreds of local people dressed up like famous people in history and acted out stories and historic events.

They were interested in myths and legends, which are stories about people a long time ago. How **reliable** do you think myths are?

Now, head back to the Craft Studio for the final activity.

Activity 3: Thinking about historical evidence

What have we learnt about Aethelflaed today?

- Remind pupils about the film they watched, what the peasant costumes looked like and the different ways that we can find out about people who lived a long time ago, like the coins.

In groups, get pupils to look at the three different pictures of Aethelflaed (Page 4) and decide which one they think looks most like her. They can use the paper and pens to write down their ideas.

Pupils should think about:

- How old the picture is.
- If her clothes look like you imagine for a warrior queen.

Each group can tell the class their reasons for the picture that they chose.

The picture of Queen Emma (Page 5) is the closest picture we have of what Aethelflaed would also have worn.

Conclusion: The evidence

The Dark Ages were a very long time ago. How do we know about them now? (*Archaeologists find objects like the coins, people during the time or later on **write down** what happened, people make up **myths and legends**, there are drawings and **pictures** made during the time or later on, others might try to **re-enact** what happened like they did for the Warwick Pageant.*)

AETHELFLÆD: WHO WAS SHE REALLY?



13th Century drawing made 300 years after Queen Aethelflaed was alive.



15th Century drawing made 500 years after Queen Aethelflaed was alive.



Warwick Pageant: Queen Ethelfleda and captured Danes.

A picture of the Warwick Pageant, 1000 years after Queen Aethelflaed was alive.

This is a picture of what Aethelflaed probably wore. It is a picture of another Anglo Saxon queen drawn when she was alive.

- Pupils can use the copies as a colouring in activity to end the session.



Queen Emma