

Anglo-Saxon Webquest

The purpose of this webquest is to explore the daily life, religion, and culture of the Anglo-Saxons. Learning about these aspects of Anglo-Saxon life will enhance your understanding of the time period and the Anglo-Saxon literature we will study.

Homes and Halls

Go to the following website:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/anglo>saxons/anglo-saxon>life/>

1. What happened to many of the towns set up by the Romans?
2. What materials were homes constructed from?
3. Describe how the houses were set up.

Go to: <http://unusualhistoricals.blogspot.com/2012/09/feasts-mead-hall-of-anglo-saxon.html>

4. Describe the set-up and atmosphere of a mead hall.

Food and Drink

Go to: <http://homeworkhelpst.johnssevenoaks.com/saxons/food.htm>

5. What types of food did Anglo-Saxons grow?
6. What did they drink instead of water? Why?
7. Why were many Anglo-Saxons vegetarians?
8. What was the only type of animal used just for its meat?

Go to: <http://www.marga.org/food/int/anglosaxon/>

9. Scroll to the bottom and click on the three recipes. Of these three, which would you most prefer to eat? Why?

10. What are three ingredients in the recipe above?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.

Social Structure

Go to: <http://www.britainexpress.com/History/anglo-saxon>life.htm>

Scroll down to “A Lord’s Life.”

11. Who was at the top of the social ladder?
12. What was this person expected to provide?

13. What were the two social classes below the king?

14. What are three ways people became slaves?
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.

Go to <http://www.octavia.net/anglosaxon/slaves.htm>

15. What was the penalty for killing a slave?
16. What was the penalty for raping a slave?

17. What was the penalty for one slave raping another?

18. Scroll to the last sentence of this page. Where were “freeing ceremonies” performed? Why?

Daily Life

Go to: <http://www.wikitree.com/articles/year-1000/>

19. If you were to go back in time to the year 1000 and meet an Anglo-Saxon, what is the first thing you would notice?
20. What happened to people after the year 1000 and before today that made them smaller?
21. At what age was a boy considered old enough to swear an oath to the king?
22. When did most girls marry?
23. When did most adults die?
24. What disease found in skeletal remains that tells us these people worked hard?

Go to <http://www.hullwebs.co.uk/content/c-anglo-saxon/home-life/anglo-saxon-women.htm>

25. What was **morgengifu**, and when was it given?
26. If a woman wished to divorce her husband, how much money and property was she entitled to?

Medicine

Go to <http://www.octavia.net/wort/wortcunningequalsherbalsmarts.htm>

27. What is the title of this page?
28. What does it mean?
29. What items were used in healing both the body and spirit?
30. What did people do to wounds to speed healing?
31. What is the title of one of the Charms listed?

Games and Entertainment

Go to <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/anglo>saxons/stories>and>pastimes/>

32. What story is mentioned under “story-telling?”
33. Click on “Riddles and Runes” in the left column. What do you think the answer to the riddle is?
34. Click on “Games and Sports.” What are some sports they enjoyed?
35. What were the gambling dice found in the grave made from?

Go to <http://anglosaxondiscovery.ashmolean.org/Life/dailylife/games>info.html>

36. What are two board games listed on this page?

Lookin' Good

Go to: <http://www.octavia.net/9thclife/Cosmetics.htm>

37. What are two things Anglo-Saxons used to brush and polish their teeth?
38. What did the Swedish anthropologist find in the teeth of 24 Viking-era men?
39. What were some possible purposes for this?
40. Look at the paragraph that starts with “Long Hair.” Click on the link that says “costly fine.” What were the punishments for the following?
 - a. Shaving a man’s head (without tying him up)= _____ shillings
 - b. Shaving a man’s beard= _____ shillings
 - c. Tying a man up and shaving his head= _____ shillings
41. The next paragraph gives the fine for cutting off an arm or leg. What is it?
_____ shillings
42. What does this penalty tell us about long hair on men?

Scroll to the top of the page. (<http://www.octavia.net/9thclife/Clothing.htm>)

43. What material was used for most clothing?

44. Did women wear underwear other than a slip (shift)?

45. What did they wear over their shift?

46. What were some colors of clothing?

47. What did men wear?

Go back to <http://www.octavia.net/9thclife/Cosmetics.htm>

Scroll to the bottom of the page.

48. What did people use for eye makeup?

49. What are 3 reasons people throughout the ages have had tattoos?

50. How were tattoos accomplished?

Religion

Go to <http://www.hullwebs.co.uk/content/c-anglo-saxon/religion/religion.htm>

51. What are some aspects of life that the Anglo-Saxon pagan (heathen) gods ruled?

Go to <http://gwydir.demon.co.uk/jo/nordic/index.htm>

52. Click on one of the gods listed in the left column. Write a sentence about that god:

53. Go back to the previous page. Click on one of the stories from the right column. What is the story about?

54. Go to <http://gwydir.demon.co.uk/jo/roman/daysweek.htm>

We get the names of the days of the week from Saxon gods. Fill in the blanks below:

Monday= _____'s day (god of _____)

Tuesday= _____'s day (god of _____)

Wednesday= _____'s day (god of _____)

Thursday= _____'s day (god of _____)

Friday= _____'s day (goddess of _____)

Sunday= _____'s day (god of _____)

Go to: <http://homeworkhelp.stjohnsevenoaks.com/saxons/religion.htm>

Scroll down to "From Pagan to Christianity"

55. About how long ago were the pagans converted?

56. What is the name of the man who converted the king in Kent?

57. Where did this man build a church?

Go to <http://gwydir.demon.co.uk/jo/nordic/runes.htm>

58. What are runes?

Go to <http://gwydir.demon.co.uk/jo/nordic/runes3.htm>

59. Write your first name in the box. Copy down the runes (symbols shown) below: