

History
Anglo-Saxon Life
Book: Anglo-Saxon Raiders and Settlers
Pages 24-33

Students: Fill in the answers and return for assessment

Everything here is based on our Curriculum Visions book Anglo-Saxon raiders and settlers.

You can open this book online now by clicking on the book cover. It will open in a new window or tab.

In this segment, we are going to take a look at an Anglo-Saxon village and learn more about how the Anglo-Saxons lived.

You will need to go to pages 24-25 of the book.

Part 1

Take a look at the picture of the Anglo-Saxon village on pages 24-25. Why do you think this village was located in this place? How did the location help the villagers to get their water, food, fuel and transportation?

Answer ...

Look for answers that include it was close to water (for drinking, growing food and transportation, woodland (for building materials and fuel) and fertile land (for growing food)

Now turn to pages 26-27

Part 2

The Anglo-Saxons often built towers before they built churches. What were the purposes of the towers? Why do you think the early Anglo-Saxon churches were often built up against towers?

Answer ...

The main purpose of the towers was for protection and as watchtowers. For reasons, look for an answer that includes protection, or the watchtower was the centre of the settlement.

Now turn to pages 28-29

Part 3

Read the text on these pages. Draw a plan for what an Anglo-Saxon house may have looked like, and some of the things you might find in it.

Answer ...

Students own answers - look for the inclusion of a sunken floor covered in planks, a single room, a hearth, thatch roof with no chimney, planks for benches and tables

Now turn to pages 30-31

Part 4

What were some of the main foods eaten by the Anglo-Saxons? Why did they drink beer instead of water? Why were most Anglo-Saxons vegetarians? How did they make the food last throughout the year without any refrigerators?

Answer ...

Answers will vary but may include rye, oats, barley, bread, vegetables like carrots and cabbage, fruits like apples and plums, wild animals like deer and boar, fish and eel, milk, pork, honey, etc.

Most Anglo-Saxons were vegetarians because they could not afford meat and it was difficult to get.

They preserved food by drying, salting, pickling, curing and making cheese.

Now turn to pages 32-33

Part 5

Who were the members of each of these groups of people and what was their role in Anglo-Saxon society?

The king

Thane

Eldermen

Ceorls

Thralls

Answer ...

The king: to rule and provide opportunities for plunder and glory

Thane: a freeman who owned more than five hides of land, many were full-time warriors or protected the king

Eldermen: a senior noble who owned a lot of land and ruled smaller areas like shires

Ceorls: a freeman who owned less than five hides of land, they worked for themselves but also for the local lord, and sometimes had to fight in the army as well

Thralls: slaves, they laboured for others

That is the end of this webcast, and you can now turn to another one. Also, find out if your teacher has left you any other worksheets or special instructions on your school website.

If you are interested in this topic, continue to browse the book and watch our amazing videos. They start right on the book cover. Or you may want to go and hear the Anglo-Saxons in action by visiting our 'fly on the wall' Eavesdrop section. You can hear what Anglo-Saxons were actually saying. Just use our safe search and search 'Eavesdrop'.

Or you may need to see related books. If so just go to the top of the screen, select History and from the page that opens choose Anglo-Saxons.

Remember, too, you can go to our safe search and type in any word about Anglo-Saxon times.