

Discover the...

# Anglo-Saxons

## Key Facts

- The Anglo-Saxons were tribes from Northern Europe and Denmark (Angles and Jutes), Germanic (Saxons) and Northern Holland (Frisians).
- They arrived in Britain after the Romans left around 410AD.
- We know about the Anglo-Saxons from the archaeological remains, written records and from the names of the places they settled in.
- The early Anglo-Saxons were Pagan and believed in an after-life so they buried their dead with grave goods, belongings they used in life. This can tell an archaeologist a lot about a person and the society they lived in.
- Most Anglo-Saxons lived in houses made of wood with thatched roofs. The buildings had one room and a fire in the centre to keep everyone warm.
- The Anglo-Saxons spoke a language we now call Old English.



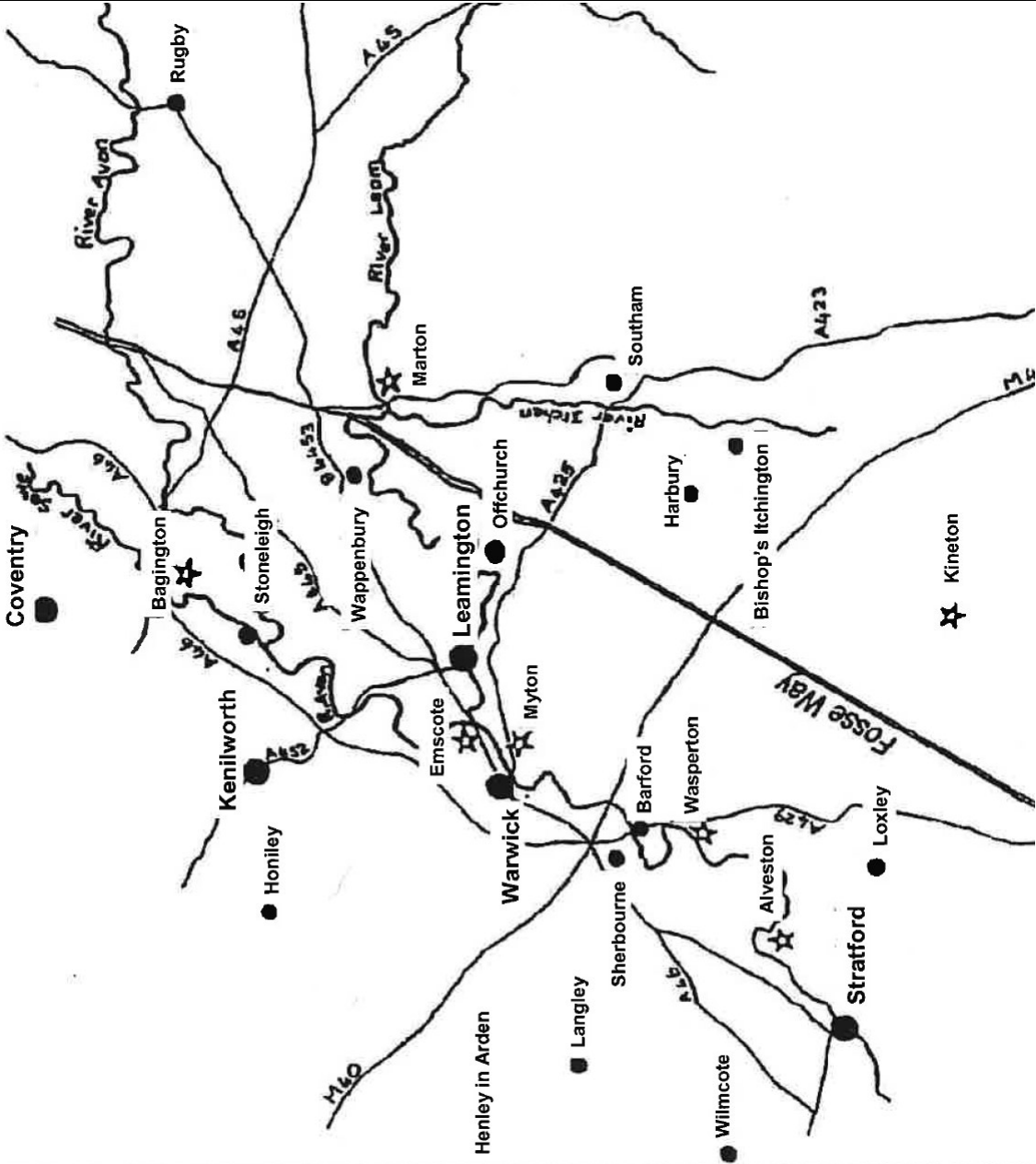
## Where to find more:

- Find out more about the Anglo-Saxons in Warwickshire by visiting the Our Warwickshire website: [https://www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk/content/coverage\\_custom/anglo-saxon](https://www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk/content/coverage_custom/anglo-saxon)
- The Key to English Place Names allows you to see what the different elements of a place name mean and which language the name comes from: <http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/>
- The British Library has lots of articles all about the Anglo-Saxons and you can see some Anglo-Saxon manuscripts online: <https://www.bl.uk/anglo-saxons>
- You can listen to some Old English on the Ashmolean Museum's website: <https://ashmolean.web.ox.ac.uk/anglo-saxon-chronicles-887-ad>

The Name Game

The Anglo-Saxons gave names to places they settled in. Place names are some of the best clues to where the Anglo-Saxons settled. Below is a map of south Warwickshire. Underline each Anglo-Saxons settlement on the map and use the chart to count up the different endings.

Old English Element	Meaning	Tally
burg, bury, by	Fortified place	
cot, cote	Cottage	
den, dene	Valley	
ford	Shallow river crossing	
ham	Homestead	
ing	People of	
ley, leigh, ly	Clearing	
ton	Farm or village	
wic	Camp or farm	
worth	Fenced land	



## Anglo-Saxon Riddles

An enemy robbed me of life. He removed my skin, soaked it in water, and took it and spread it in the sun. The sun and my enemy's knife caused it to lose its roughness. Next, it was folded up and a feather was moved over its surface and left wise markings behind. It swallowed more dye and again made its mark. Lastly, a man put covers upon it.

What was I?

Who were my enemies?

What did I become?

20 white horses on a red hill,  
First they champ, then they stamp,  
Then they stand still.

What are they?

A box without hinges, key or lid,  
Yet golden treasure inside is hid.

What is it?

This thing all things devours:  
Birds, beast, trees, flowers.  
Gnaws iron, bites steel, grinds hard stone to meal.  
Slays kings, ruins towns and beats high mountains down.

What is it?

Answers: 1. Cow or calf; man, a book. 2. Teeth. 3. An egg. 4. Water.

## Colouring in

Here are some objects archaeologists find in Anglo Saxon graves. Can you guess what they are and colour them in?



# Make your own Anglo Saxon bead jewellery

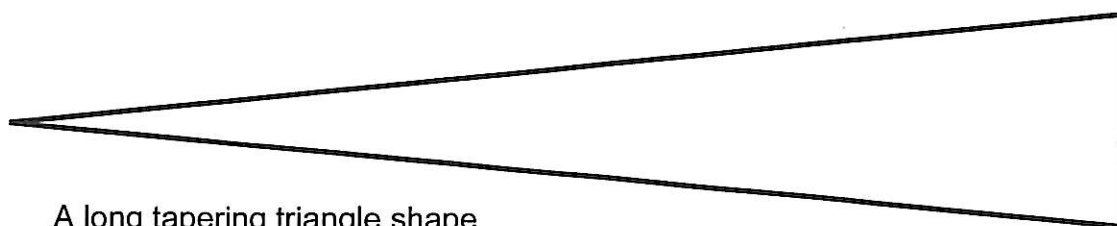
Men and women would have worn beads as decoration. Women would have worn beads as a necklace strung between two broaches to fasten their dress together. Men may have worn one or two beads as a necklace or as belt toggles.

Beads have also been found in the graves of children but they may have only worn one or two beads on a string instead of a whole string of beads like adults did.

## To make your Anglo Saxon beads you will need:

Colourful magazines to cut up  
Length of elastic to thread your beads onto  
Sellotape

1. Choose a few colourful pages from a magazine and rip them out.
2. Cut the pages into long tapering triangles like the one below. To make different sized beads cut different lengths of triangles.
3. Roll the triangles from the wide end to the pointy end, this makes a bead shape
4. To hold the bead in place use some sellotape
5. Make as many beads as you need for your jewellery and thread them onto a length of elastic
6. When you have threaded all your beads on tie the ends of the elastic together



A long tapering triangle shape