



# *Year 4 - History*

*TBAT design an Anglo-Saxon hall for a Chief*



In theme, we have been learning about how buildings have changed over time.

We have looked at the Stone Age, the Iron Age, the Bronze Age and the Romans. Next, we will learn about the Anglo-Saxons.

# Life compared to the Romans

The Anglo-Saxons preferred to live very differently to the Romans who had established large towns in Britain during their rule. Places like London and Cirencester, which were thriving centres under the Romans became much smaller and quieter during the Anglo-Saxon times, and some towns were completely abandoned and the buildings were left to go to ruin.

- The Anglo-Saxons chose to live in small villages instead, which were often set up by clearing away a part of a forest.
- The Anglo-Saxons lived in family houses which were built around a central hall where the village chief lived.



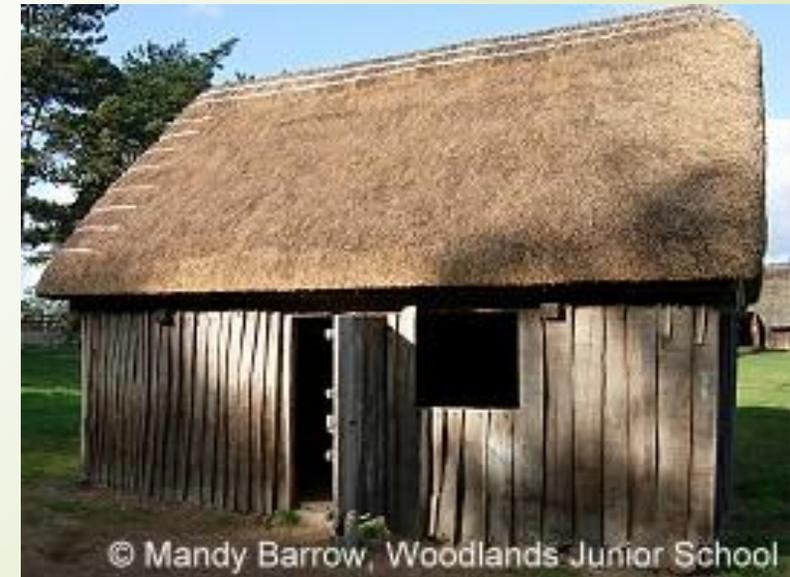
# Anglo-Saxon Houses

We know what Saxons houses may have looked like from excavations of Anglo Saxon villages, such as the one at West Stow in the east of England. Here, an early Anglo-Saxon village (c.420-650AD) has been carefully reconstructed where it was excavated. Using clues from the what was discovered, archeologists have reconstructed the houses as they may have looked about 1,500 years ago.



# Anglo-Saxon Houses

- ▶ Anglo-Saxons houses were huts made of wood with roofs thatched with straw.
- ▶ Much of Britain was covered with forests. The Saxons had plenty of wood to use.
- ▶ There was only one room where everybody ate, cooked, slept and entertained their friends.
- ▶ The houses were built facing the sun to get as much heat and light as possible.



# The Hall

- ▶ The biggest house in an Anglo Saxon village was the Hall, the Chief's house. He lived there with his warriors.
- ▶ The Hall was long, wide and smoky, with the fire on a stone in the middle. The smoke from the fire escaped through a hole in the roof.
- ▶ The windows were slits called eye-holes. There was no glass in the windows.
- ▶ On the walls were shields and antlers. The floor was dirty and covered with rushes from the river banks. Sometimes the oxen were kept at one end of the Hall.





# Task

You are the chief of an Anglo-Saxon village! Unfortunately, you do not have a hall. Look at the task to see how we can fix that problem.

