



Year 4 - History

TBAT design an Anglo-Saxon village



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

This activity will look more closely at an Anglo-Saxon village.





Anglo-Saxon Villages

- ▶ Anglo Saxon villages were usually very small. The largest villages had no more than a few hundred people living there.
- ▶ The villages were built near natural resources. The villagers needed food, water, fuel for heating and cooking and materials for their homes and clothes. The natural resources had to provide the villagers with what they needed to survive.
- ▶ The village also needed to protect itself. All round the village was a high fence to keep the herds safe at night from enemies and the wild animals of the forests - wolves, foxes and boars.

Anglo-Saxon Villages

- ▶ The Anglo-Saxons grew crops and kept pigs, sheep and cattle. They hunted other animals and fish for food. They made household goods and farm equipment from pottery, wood and metal, clothes from cloth they wove themselves. They traded goods such as hunting dogs for things they couldn't make, like glass, with people from other countries.



Anglo-Saxon Villages

Look at this picture of a typical Anglo-Saxon village. What can you see?

The Anglo-Saxons positioned their villages near a water source, such as a river or lake, which would provide drinking water and fish to eat.

The chief of the village lived in a larger house in the centre of the village. This house might also contain a meeting hall.

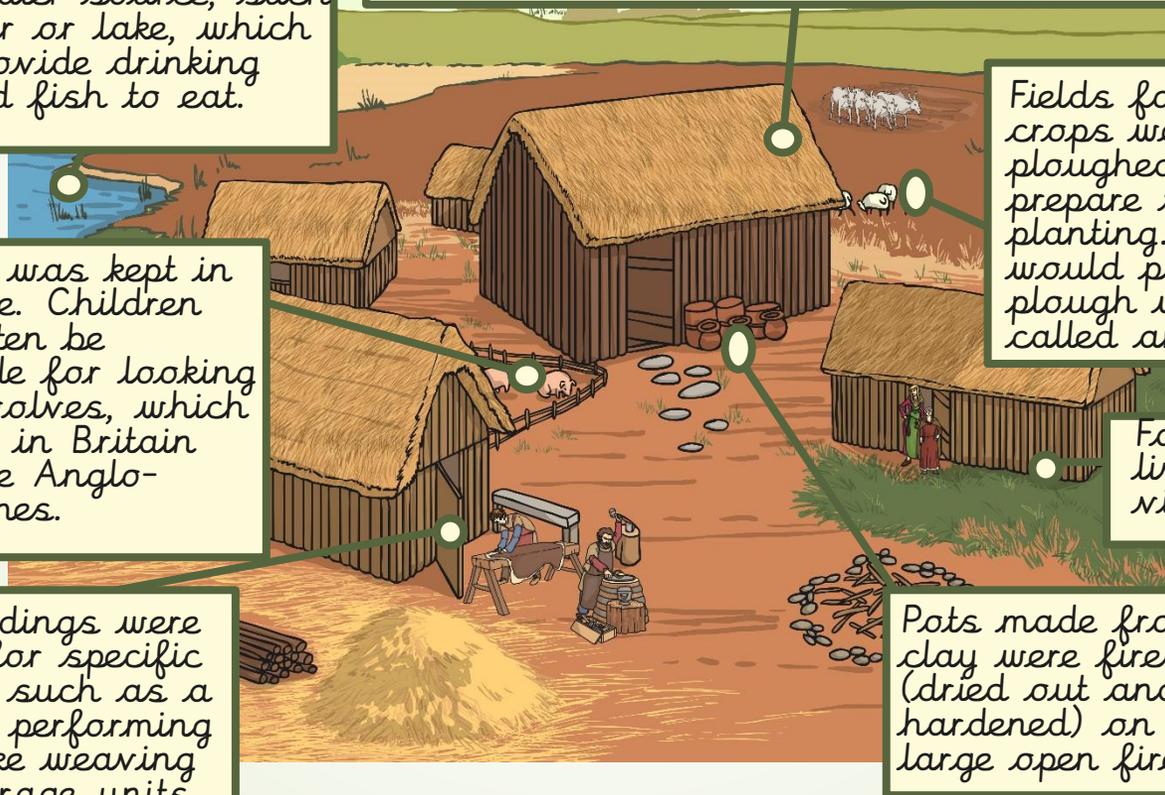
Livestock was kept in the village. Children would often be responsible for looking out for wolves, which were wild in Britain during the Anglo-Saxon times.

Fields for growing crops were ploughed over to prepare them for planting. Oxen would pull a basic plough which was called an ard.

Some buildings were reserved for specific purposes, such as a space for performing a craft like weaving or as storage units.

Family groups lived in smaller village houses.

Pots made from clay were fired (dried out and hardened) on a large open fire.





Task

As a chief you decide the layout of your village! This is a very important job. Look at the task sheet to see what you need to do.

