

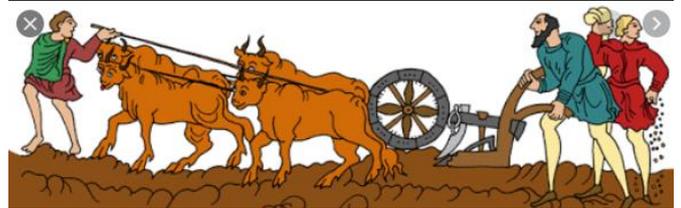
Anglo-Saxon Farming Guide

Farming was an incredibly important part of Anglo-Saxon life and was essential to their survival. They could not go to a supermarket when they needed food and drink, or go to a shop to buy new clothes. Therefore, they had to make sure that they could provide everything that they needed themselves.

Use these websites to explore Anglo-Saxon farming

- http://www.earlybritishkingdoms.com/kids/saxon_farming.html
- <https://primaryfacts.com/8064/anglo-saxon-farming-facts-about-agriculture/>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxsbcdm/articles/zq2m6sg>

Make notes on what you discover.



What do you notice about the equipment the farmers are using?



Your Task:

We would like you to use your research to think about how an Anglo-Saxon farm might differ to a farm today.



What do you notice about the images of modern day farms?
What would an image of an Anglo-Saxon farm look like?

Explain the differences between Anglo-Saxon farming and farming in 2020. You could draw an Anglo-Saxon farm to support your written explanation (don't forget to add labels) or you could create a double bubble map to compare and contrast them.

Take care over your presentation and think about how you could use technical vocabulary to show that you are an expert on the Anglo-Saxons.

Anglo-Saxon Food

You should now have some ideas of what the Anglo-Saxons were able to grow on their farms. Anglo-Saxons were only able to eat what they could produce themselves, so their diet was very different to ours. See what else you can find out about food in the Anglo-Saxon times.

Use the websites below to research Anglo-Saxon food. Make notes on the key information that you find.

- <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/saxons/food.htm>
- <https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/anglo-saxons/what-did-anglo-saxons-eat/>
- http://www.earlybritishkingdoms.com/kids/food_drink.html

Think carefully about how you set out your research. Could you use bullets or sub-headings to help you to organise your findings?

The role of seasons

Because we can import food from all over the world and grow food in controlled settings, we can eat the same foods all year round. However, the Anglo-Saxons were only able to eat food when it was ready to harvest.

Take a look at what is in season in the UK now:

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/seasonal-calendar/all>

Task 1:

You have been set a task on Purple Mash looking at Anglo-Saxon food and comparing it to what we eat today. Make sure that you have completed the research first.

Can you spot the odd one out?



One of these would not have been eaten by the Anglo-Saxons.

Rich vs Poor

Anglo-Saxon's diet varied depending upon how much money they had. Meat would have only been consumed by the rich. Although poorer people would have had access to meat on their farms, they would have been more likely to sell it for money.

Task 2:

Use your research to create an Anglo-Saxon menu. Think carefully about the range of dishes that you include and write a brief description of each dish so that we know what is included.

How did the Anglo-Saxons use animals?

The Anglo-Saxons did not have lots of machines to help them with their farming, so often used animals to help them.

Cattle



Larger animals such as oxen and cows were used to carry the machinery used to plough the fields. They could carry the heavy equipment whilst the workers operated it. Take a closer look by clicking on the interactive image.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/to>

Clothing

Anglo-Saxons could only wear clothes made from natural materials, such as wool or linen. The fabric would have been quite rough as they did not have chemicals to soften the material and only the rich would have been able to afford dye for their clothes. Alongside wool, animal fur would have been used in colder months and skin would have been used to create leather.

Find more details on the website below:

<https://primaryfacts.com/8129/what-did-the-anglo-saxons-wear-facts-about-anglo-saxon-clothing/>

Every part of the animal was used!

The animal fat was used to make 'tallow' candles. Now we do not need this as we can mass produce candles in another way.

Challenge:

Take a look at the animals below. Can you explain how each of these were used by the Anglo-Saxons? How is it different from today? Are any of the animals used in the same way today? All of your research so far should help with this.

