



By Michael Morpurgo

# What was life like for an Anglo-Saxon?

The **Anglo-Saxons** were a group of farmer-warriors who lived in **Britain** over a thousand years ago.

Made up of three **tribes**, who came over from **Europe**, they were called the **Angle**, **Saxon** and **Jute** tribes. The two largest were the Angle and Saxon, which is how we've come to know them as the Anglo-Saxons today.



The Anglo-Saxons were great **craft workers**. They made intricate **jewellery**, musical **instruments** and home-made **toys** and **games**. Anglo-Saxon jewellers made brooches, beads and gold ornaments. At first, their art-work was **pagan**, but after the conversion to **Christianity** in the AD600s astonishing artwork was made for churches.



The first Anglo-Saxons raided the shores of south and east England in the fourth century AD, but they were beaten by the Romans.

At the beginning of the 5th century, the Romans left Britain. They had not trained the British to defend themselves and so the next time the Saxons tried to invade Britain they succeeded. They arrived from the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark.



<b>alliance</b>	An agreement between two or more parties
<b>Athelstan</b>	Athelstan was an Anglo-Saxon king who lived from 894 to 939. He is regarded by historians as the first King of England.
<b>carpenter</b>	someone who builds and repairs things made from wood
<b>craftsman</b>	a person who works at a craft or a skilled trade
<b>jeweller</b>	someone who makes or repairs jewellery
<b>metalworker</b>	someone who works with metal
<b>potter</b>	a craftsperson who shapes pottery on a potter's wheel and bakes them in a kiln
<b>raider</b>	a person who attacks an enemy in their territory
<b>tribe</b>	a social group made up of many families, clans, or generations that share the same language, customs, and beliefs

Wattle and daub is made by weaving together small wooden branches to create a wall. Mud, straw, horse hair and cow or horse dung is mixed together and then smeared on the walls. Once this dries it is like plaster and can even be painted.

Roofs were thatched with straw or reeds. The floors were either wooden planks or just plain earth.

**wattle and daub** a framework of woven rods and twigs covered and plastered with clay and used in building construction



**thatched** a roof covering of straw, reeds, palm leaves, or a similar material



Athelstan was an Anglo-Saxon king who lived from 894 to 939. He is regarded by historians as the first King of England. Athelstan was the son of Edward the Elder and the grandson of Alfred the Great.

In 937, Athelstan's enemies grouped together because they weren't happy that Athelstan had invaded Scotland in 934. The **Battle of Brunanburh** followed but Athelstan's enemies were defeated.

The Battle of Brunanburh is regarded as one of the key moments in English history, as Athelstan not only preserved the unity of his kingdom but also proved that even the united forces of three of his most powerful enemies was not enough to defeat him.



## P.E

overarm pass  
bounce pass  
jump pass  
side pass  
dribbling  
attacking  
defending

## Reading

pronoun  
noun  
sentence  
noun phrase  
determiner  
picture

## English/Grammar

mythical tale  
explanation text  
conjunction  
time adverbials  
dialogue      introduction  
build up      dilemma  
resolution      ending  
hero      anti-hero

## RSHE

dreams  
goals  
hopes  
disappointment  
resilience  
perseverance

## Art

tone  
contrast  
light  
dark  
illusion  
dimension

# Spring One

## Music

instruments      story  
dynamics      effect  
characters      actions

## History

tribes      raiders  
Athelstan      craftsmen  
metalworkers      woodworkers  
potter      jeweller  
wattle and daub  
thatched      brooches  
tools      Netherlands  
Germany      Denmark

## Maths

Year 4  
multiplication  
division  
factor  
related facts  
Year 5  
multiplication  
division  
area model  
exchange

## Computing

spreadsheet      data  
formatting      formulae  
decimal      cell

## R.E

Hinduism      dharma  
puja      mandir  
bhajans      deities  
murtis

## French

regardez      répétez      écoutez  
grand(e)      petit(e)      vrai      faux