



With so many families learning from home at the moment, we have put together some activity ideas for families to look at, based on our museum collection. After you have found out some interesting facts about Anglo-Saxon jewellery, follow the instructions to create your own replicas at home using salt dough!

Have fun and remember that if you need any extra help, our museum learning team are only an email away and are happy to help in any way they can.

We can discover a lot about the way people lived in the past by looking at how they were buried.

In Anglo-Saxon England, people were buried with things that were important to them during their lives.

Many personal belongings such as pieces of jewellery on display at the museum come from an Anglo-Saxon burial site discovered in Norton upon Tees.

This has given us an opportunity to see what people might have worn in this area around 1500 years ago!



The brooches you can see in these pictures would have been worn by both men and women. They were pinned to clothes and cloaks to hold them up, a bit like a safety pin. As well as being practical they were also worn to look beautiful and show others that the person wearing them was important and wealthy.

Anglo-Saxons would also often wear metal belt buckles engraved like these brooches are.

The brooches you can see are engraved with very detailed patterns and designs, such as crosses.

The metals used to create Anglo-Saxon brooches could be gold, silver, bronze or copper.



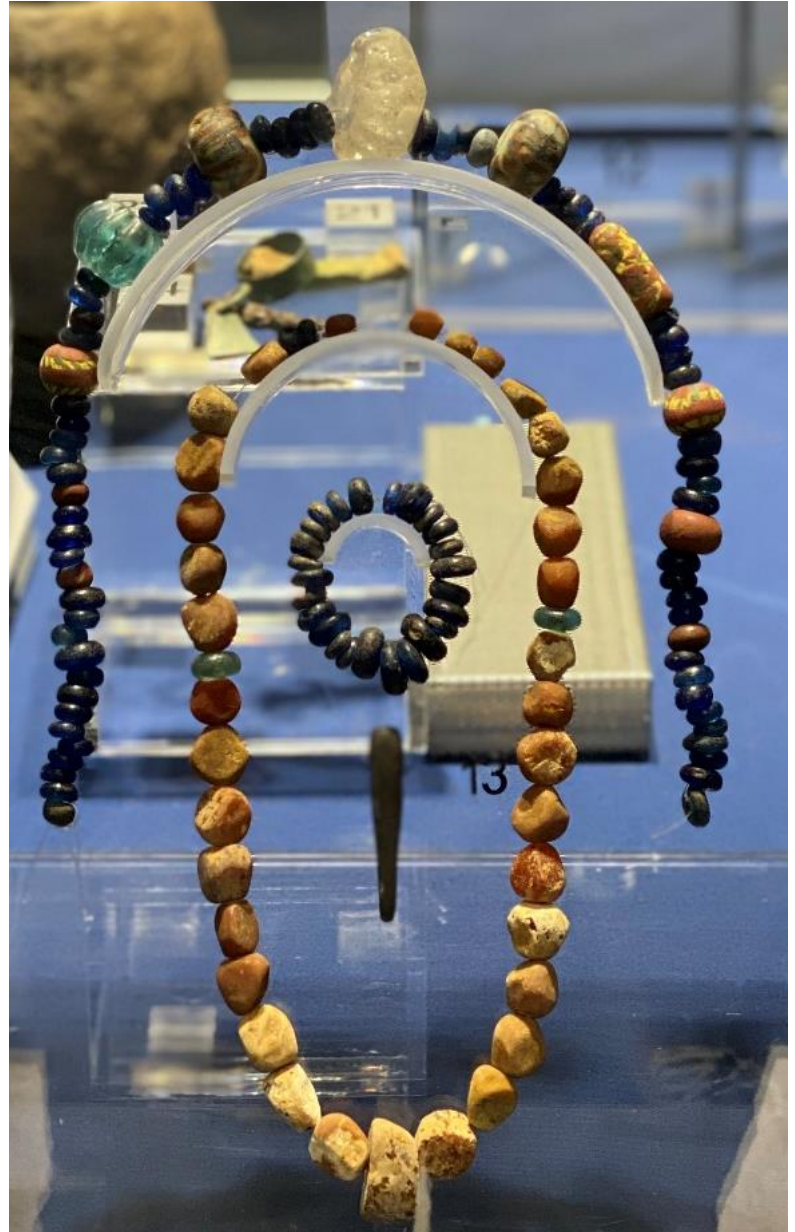


Not all Anglo-Saxons came to Britain to fight. Many women and children also travelled to settle within their families. Britain's land was good for growing crops compared to their homeland and offered more opportunities. When the battles were over, the new settlers would then concentrate on farming the land.

This meant that much as the metalworkers made knives, swords and tools, they also made and traded jewellery.

The Anglo Saxons were skilled craftsmen and women, creating beautiful sculptures, wall paintings, musical instruments and jewellery.

Historians think that these necklaces and three beads pictured were made between the year 500 and the year 625. That means that they are around 1500 years old! The beads are made from lots of different materials, such as stone, quartz, amber, jet, glass, and even animal bone.

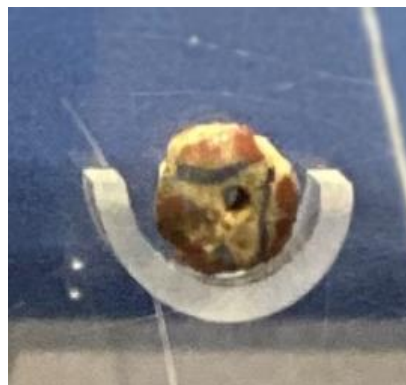
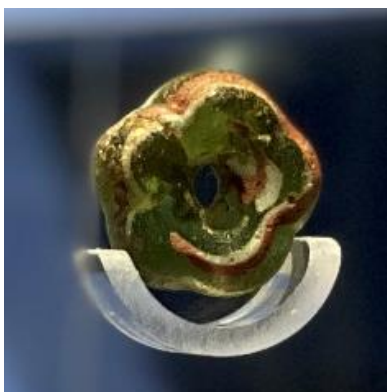


Things to think about

What materials are modern day pieces jewellery made from?

Are any of the materials the same as the ones used in the Anglo Saxon jewellery?

Are any different?





A historical replica is a copy or model of something. They are important to historians, because making a replica helps us to understand more about the thing or object we are looking at in even more detail. It also helps us understand the way something was made, and the skills needed by the people who created it.

Why not make some replica Anglo-Saxon jewellery from home? Creating your own Anglo-Saxon designs and being creative will help you understand the choices jewellery makers made in the past and what inspired them.



Follow the instructions below to create your own replicas from salt dough.

It is important to remember that you aren't necessarily making your replicas to wear, you are making them to look at. Make your creations bigger than beads and brooches would normally be, as if they are too small or too thin they can burn and crack when you cook them.

Even though your salt dough creations will might look like biscuits when they are cooked, they aren't for eating!

Please make sure you keep your creations away from your pets, both when making them and when they are finished.

You will need:

125ml cold water
125 table salt
Baking tray/sheet
Spoon
Paint

250g plain flour
Use of an oven
Greaseproof, non-stock baking paper
Fork
Paintbrush

Step One

Line a baking tray or sheet with some greaseproof and baking non-stick paper. Pre heat your oven to its lowest setting.

Step Two

Using a large bowl, mix together your flour and salt. Then gradually add your water and stir until it comes together as a ball. Remember that you can always add more water or flour as needed.





Step Three

Clean a work surface and sprinkle with flour. Roll out your dough and split your dough into smaller pieces and then shape it, and using a spoon and fork press patterns into it.

Remember to make your creations bigger than beads and brooches would normally be, as if they are too small or too thin they will burn and crack when you cook them. Simple designs work best.

You can look at the pictures of jewellery from the museum for inspiration, or design your own!

Step Four

Put your shaped items onto your lined baking tray.

Bake for around three hours or until solid.

The thicker your dough, the longer it will take to cook, so if your pieces of replica jewellery are all different sizes some may take longer to cook than others.

Step Five

Leave your replica jewellery until it is completely cool.

Step Six

Paint your creations.

