

INTRODUCTION

Did you know that just down the road from your school is an Early Medieval royal residence?

Did you know that it is currently the focus of an ongoing archaeological investigation?

Did you know that the archeologists want to engage your school with the project?

This KS2 teaching resource contains seven easy-to-follow cross-curricula classroom activities to add value to your history teaching.

The activities can be used as stand-alone tasks to complement your existing Anglo-Saxon/Early Medieval/Local History syllabus or as a complete unit to develop a deeper understanding of life in Early Medieval royal residences.

Each activity is highly focused on the local sites, using actual finds and real life archeological practices to engage the students. Our wish is for them to develop an understanding of historical enquiry, as well as a sense of pride and ownership of their local heritage.

BACKGROUND

This Resource has been created as part of the project, *Monumentalising Kingship: Places of Royal Residence and the Making of Early Medieval British Kingdoms AD 500- 800*.

Funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council, the project has brought together experts from five royal residence sites across Britain to share their findings and learn from each other - *The Royal Residences Network*.

Each site is at a different stage of investigation: some have been known about for many years and have been extensively excavated and researched; others are at a much earlier point, with much still to be discovered. All display clear signs of being a site of importance – from very large structures, to precious jewellery, to imported materials, to references in historic texts.

Now the Network wants to share this knowledge with people that live in the vicinity of their sites, in particular supporting schools in engaging with their local Royal Residence archaeological sites.

If you are interested in learning more about your local site, please check out the project website and contact the relevant representative:

Royal Residence Network project website
<http://royalresidencenetwork.org>

Lyminge, Kent
<http://www.lymingearchaeology.org>
Gabor Thomas
gabor.thomas@reading.ac.uk

Rendlesham, Suffolk
<https://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk/rendlesham-project>
Faye Minter
Faye.Minter@suffolk.gov.uk

Rhynie Environs, Pictland
<http://reaparch.blogspot.co.uk/p/more-information.html>
Gordon Noble
g.noble@abdn.ac.uk

Sutton Courtenay & The Origins of Wessex, Oxfordshire
<http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/wessex.html>
Helena Hamerow
helena.hamerow@arch.ox.ac.uk

Yeavinger, Northumberland
<http://www.gefrintrust.org>
Brian Cosgrove
brian.cosgrove@gefrintrust.org

RESOURCE OVERVIEW

SUMMARY

- Seven group activities to be run in the classroom.
- Explores how archaeologists worked out where to look for the sites in the first place, and then how it was deduced that the five in the Network were royal sites.
- Works in conjunction with your current Anglo-Saxon/Early Medieval curriculum.
- Will enhance and enrich history lessons, with real case studies taken from live archaeological excavations.
- Focus on developing Historical Enquiry Skills, inviting the children to use the archaeological evidence as a starting point to develop a hypothesis, which can then be questioned, tested and revised as necessary.

CURRICULUM AREAS

English National Curriculum:

- Primarily KS2 History subject content: 'Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots' and 'a local history study'.
- Also touches on KS2 Geography: 'Locational knowledge' and 'Geographical skills and fieldwork'; Art & Design; Mathematics: 'Measurement', 'Geometry', 'Statistics'; English: 'Reading – comprehension', 'Writing – composition', 'Spoken Language'.

Scotland Curriculum for Excellence:

- Primarily 2nd Level Social Studies: 'People, past events and societies'.
- Also touches on 2nd Level Social Studies: 'People, place and environment'; Numeracy and mathematics: 'Number, money and measure', 'Shape, position and movement', 'Information handling'; Expressive arts: 'Participation in performances and presentations', 'Art and design'; Literacy & English: 'Listening and talking', 'Reading', 'Writing'.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Through undertaking these activities, the pupils will:

- Gain a deeper understanding of the royal way of life in Britain during the Anglo Saxon period
- Learn about different archaeological techniques and how these provide evidence that can be interpreted as clues to how people lived in the past
- Understand how their local site shares characteristics with other Early Medieval royal residences in the UK
- Experience working with evidence, developing hypotheses and testing these through logical processes.

Each activity comprises a method statement that takes you through the task step-by-step; a complementary list of optional cross-curricula open-ended activities for you to select according to the needs and interests of your pupils; and a set of handouts that can either be projected or printed.

The activities are as follows:

1. The Five Archaeological Sites

2. How do Archaeologists know where to look?

a Historic texts

b Place Names

c Aerial Photography

3 How do Archaeologists know these are royal sites?

a Building Foundations

b Great Hall Activities

c Exotic Finds

In addition, the teaching resource contains a glossary handout that defines the words underlined within the activities.

We would appreciate hearing your feedback on this teaching resource and what we could do to improve it. Please send any comments through to laura@jakarandatree.com. Thank you.

FURTHER READING

The Anglo-Saxon period at KS2 is covered by a number of other teaching resources. If you are interested in learning more or supplementing this resource with additional activities, below are some of our recommended resources.

To download a copy of this Teaching Resource as a .pdf please visit: <http://royalresidencenetwork.org>

BBC KS2 Anglo Saxon materials

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zxsbcdm>

Beowulf Manuscript @ British Library

<http://www.bl.uk/collection-items/beowulf>

Beowulf for Kids by the Anglo-Saxon Foundation

<http://www.englisc-gateway.com/bbs/files/file/15-beowulf-for-kids/>

Bede Manuscript @ British Library

<https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/bedes-ecclesiastical-history>

What was it like to live in Anglo-Saxon Lyminge?

<http://www.canterburytrust.co.uk/learning/resources/what-was-it-like-to-live-in-anglo-saxon-lyminge-a-cat-curriculum-pack/>

Yeavinger Saxon Royal Palace – interactive educational website

<http://www.pastperfect.org.uk/sites/yeavinger/index.html>

Experiencing Archaeology – classroom activities

http://www.nts.org.uk/learn/downloads/archaeology/Would_You_Make_a_Good_Archaeologist_0611.pdf

British Museum Sutton Hoo Classroom Resource

https://www.britishmuseum.org/learning/schools_and_teachers/resources/all_resources/resource_sutton_hoo_slideshow.aspx

British Museum Collections Online

http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online/search.aspx