

The Great Buckle

In 1939, an Anglo-Saxon burial site was discovered in Sutton Hoo, Suffolk. It consisted of a buried ship containing objects of incredible historical and archaeological importance.

This buckle, known as The Great Buckle, was part of the hoard. Its plate is hollow and has a hinge at the back. This reveals a secret chamber which might have contained a religious relic. The engraving is intricate and inlaid with niello.

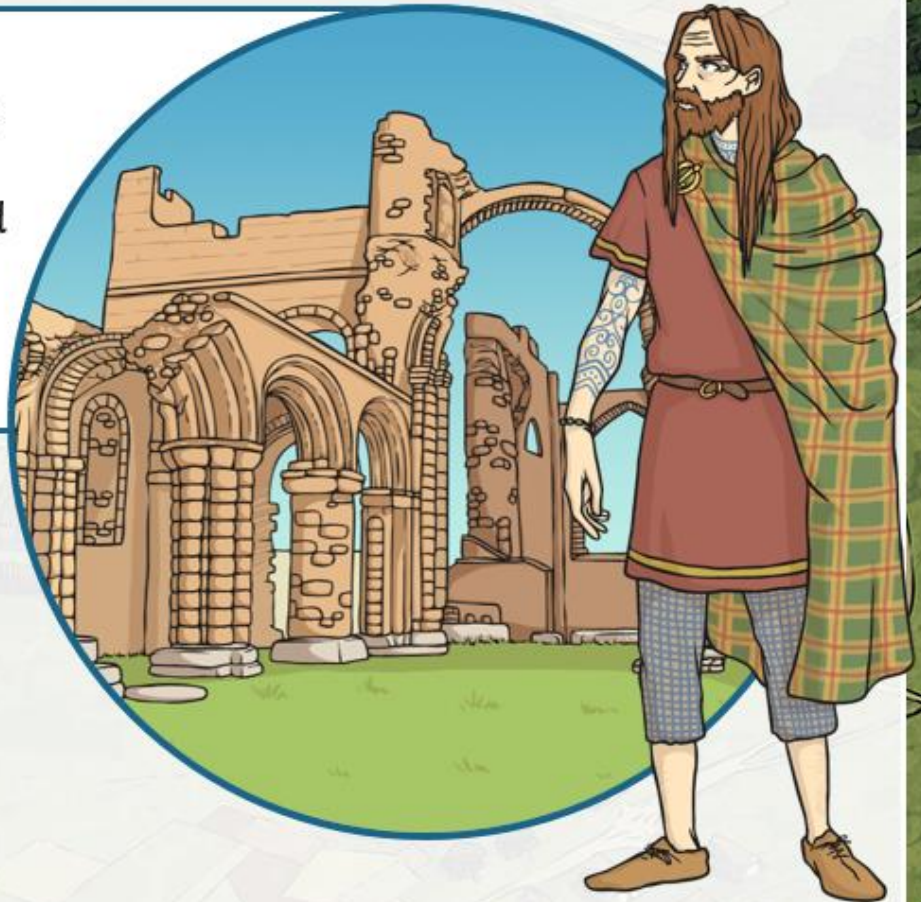


Year 3 Anglo Saxon Art Activity

Early Britain

The Anglo-Saxons lived in Britain from the 5th century – so around AD 400. The term relates to people from mainly the Germanic areas of Europe, who migrated to Britain after Roman rule came to an end, and lived amongst the people already living in Britain.

The Anglo-Saxons were highly skilled craftsmen and women who created jewellery, ceramics, sculptures and wall paintings.



Metalwork Craft - Buckles

The Anglo-Saxons created buckles, jewellery and purse fittings which were made from gold, silver and bronze. The metal was beaten and engraved, often with dots and dashes representing the fur of animals. Gemstones like garnet were inlaid into the metal. Niello was used to add letters and symbols to the engraved items.

Niello was a black paste made from copper, sulphur, silver and lead. It was added to the metal and then fired – heated to a very high temperature – to set the paste.



The Fuller Brooch – 9th century Anglo-Saxon

Year 3 Anglo Saxon Art Activity

Anglo Saxon Buckle Design

My buckle is for _____

It will be made using _____

