



KS4 Anglo-Saxon and Norman England: Virtual trail, tour and film

[Welcome to the Anglo-Saxon and Viking gallery at Norwich Castle](#). This trail uses Google Maps to virtually access Anglo-Saxon-related displays relevant to the GCSE topic Anglo-Saxon and Norman England but feel free to also use the links to explore the rest of the gallery and the museum. Please click on the underlined blue words to take you to relevant exhibits. You may need to zoom in to read some of the information. Answers to questions can be found at the end of this document.

A New Nation

[Read A New Nation](#).

Q1. What did the new Anglo-Saxon culture give this country? (Four things)

[Read Migration: The Coming of the English](#) (apologies that this is difficult to read).

Q2. Where did the Anglo-Saxons who created East Anglia originate from?

Would You Be Seen Dead in That?

[Study the Would You Be Seen Dead in That? display](#). This display includes jewellery and other items Anglo-Saxon women wore to show their status, their ethnic group or to show off! Can you zoom in and find items 46 and 47? They look like keys and are called girdle hangers. They symbolised that the woman wearing them was the keeper of her house. In other words, she was in charge of her household.

Q3. What does this tell us about Anglo-Saxon attitudes towards women?

Anglo-Saxons were buried with items that were important to them. Many Anglo-Saxon women were buried with their girdle hangers. If you wish, you can [study an Anglo-Saxon grave](#), complete with skeleton and belongings.

Activity: What belongings do you have that would tell other people about you?

New Money, New Religion

[Read New Money, New Religion](#). By the 7th century, groups of Anglo-Saxons had become united and ruled by kings.

Q4. Why was the adoption of Christianity at this time important? (Two reasons).

Domestic Bliss?

[Read Domestic Bliss?](#) and study the accompanying pictures and objects.

Q5. How did most families live?

Q6. What were homes made out of?

Q7. What did a central fire provide?

Activity: Design a dream Anglo-Saxon home! What will it look like from the outside? What will it have inside?

Towns and Trade

[Read Towns and Trade](#), and study the accompanying display of objects.

Q8. By 1066, Norwich was one of the largest Anglo-Saxon towns in England. What did Norwich produce which showed it was an important settlement?

Q9. Can you find examples of these products in the display?

Norwich and the Normans

[Study and read about the map of Norwich from the south in 1050AD](#). Now [study and read about the map from the west](#).

Q10. How many houses and churches were demolished when the Castle was built on this site?

To find out more about the Normans and Norwich Castle, [watch this Norwich Castle Keep virtual tour](#). Then complete the following questions and activities:

Q11. Why wasn't William of Normandy wanted as king?

Q12. Why did William order the building of castles?

Q13. Why was Norwich chosen as a site for a castle?

Activity: draw a storyboard or cartoon of how the Castle was built.

Q14. Why was a wooden keep built first?

Q15. Why did the Normans face the Keep in limestone from Normandy?

Q16. Why was the Castle so difficult to access?

Q17. Why did the Normans include carvings of hunting scenes and of a knight kneeling in the decorations on the Bigod Arch?

Activity: Draw a storyboard or cartoon of the siege of 1075.

The Normans also moved the Saxon marketplace from Tombland to its current site west of the Castle.

Q18. Why do you think the Normans did this?

Q19. How do you think the Anglo-Saxons would have felt about all these changes, and why?

[Watch this film of an Anglo-Saxon talking about his culture and the Normans.](#)

Q20. What other reasons did the Anglo-Saxons have to hate the Normans, and why? (up to 12 reasons)

The Legacy of Anglo-Saxon England

[Read The Legacy of Anglo-Saxon England.](#)

Q21. The author thinks the greatest legacy of this period is that England was unified under one king. Do you agree? Look back to your answers for Q1 and use your own knowledge to help.

Answers to questions

1. Its name, language, monarchy and place names
2. Angeln in north Germany
3. Women were considered important members of society
4. Salvation; supported kings as rightful rulers
5. Single room
6. Water, daub (wicker, clay, mud, dung) and thatch
7. Heat, light and cooking
8. Coins
9. [View examples of coins](#)
10. 98 houses and two churches
11. He wasn't Anglo-Saxon but Norman (northern French)
12. To impose his power and control
13. It was a large Anglo-Saxon settlement
14. For speed and to settle the motte foundations
15. To show off Norman wealth and power
16. So it would be difficult to attack
17. To remind the Anglo-Saxons of their new laws and customs
18. To keep control and to keep an eye on the Anglo-Saxons
19. They would have hated them – losing homes and places of worship to a building that was built to house enemy soldiers who could then watch over them trading
20. Reasons include: killing the rightful king, Harold Godwinson; cheating at the Battle of Hastings; salting land; Forest Laws (only William was allowed to hunt in forests); women no longer having the same rights as men; William owning everything; ceasing Wergild; Murdrum fine (whole Anglo-Saxon community had to pay compensation for a dead Norman to the King and his sheriff); Geld tax (to pay for William's mercenaries at Hastings); replacing most Anglo-Saxon religious leaders with Normans
21. Own opinion

Norfolk Museums Service is a partnership between Norfolk County Council and Norfolk's District Councils, funded through council tax, earned income and grants.

