

Notes for teachers

National curriculum links

- History: Anglo-Saxon England and early Islamic, Maya and West African civilisation, chronology, similarity and difference, using evidence in historical enquiry
- Geography: locational and place knowledge, settlement and land use, economic activity, natural resources, geographical skills including map and globe use

About this session

Students will learn about culture and society in Anglo-Saxon England, Abbasid Iraq, Maya Mexico and early Nigeria.

Location Clore Centre for Education

Format PowerPoint presentation with Q&A, group work, object-handling, discussion

Capacity up to 30 students from same school

Duration 60 minutes

Price £50 per class

In detail

- Using PPT presentation, students are introduced to the rulers, settlement and religion in Anglo-Saxon England, especially Wessex in AD 900.
- The students use globes and maps to locate key contemporary civilisations across the world and then puzzles to visualise, describe and compare their buildings and landscapes.
- The students work in small groups to examine, describe and analyse objects relating to life and culture in Maya Mexico, Abbasid Iraq and early Nigeria, before presenting to the class.

Before your visit

- Look at an atlas to find England, Mexico, Iraq and Nigeria. Think about the objects that we use every day and how they can be used as evidence of the lives people lead.

After your visit

- Discuss the workshop and the object evidence examined by the students. Think about the similarities and differences between the civilisations that were studied in different parts of the world but that existed at the same time. As a class create a chart or poster to represent this.

Find out more

- More sessions and resources about [Anglo-Saxon Britain](#), [Africa](#), [the Americas](#), [Middle East and Islamic world](#)
- Related galleries: 25, 27, 41, *Islamic world gallery currently being redeveloped*
- Take a look at the galleries with [Google Street View](#)
- Search the [collection online](#)

Visit notes for students and adult helpers

You can print this summary sheet and take it with you during your visit.

Learning objectives

- To understand how Anglo-Saxon England was ruled and organised in AD 900
- To locate Mexico, Iraq and Nigeria and their early civilisations in the world
- To learn how to examine objects and what they can tell us about life in early civilisations

Key words

Edward the Elder – Anglo-Saxon king in AD 900

Aethelflaed – Lady of Mercia, sister of King Edward

Odin – Viking god with raven messengers

Abbasids – rulers of Iraq and early Islamic world

Igbo-Ukwu – important archaeological site in Nigeria

Maya – early civilisation in Mexico and Central America

Bronze – metal made from copper and tin

Copal – tree resin burnt as incense

Ivory – elephant tusk used for jewellery

Lustre – shiny decoration on pottery

Obsidian – volcanic glass used for arrows, blades and mirrors

What was England like in AD 900?

- England was divided between the Anglo-Saxons and Danish Vikings in AD 900.
- Wessex was the most powerful Anglo-Saxon kingdom and was ruled by Edward the Elder.
- Anglo-Saxons built burhs (fortified towns) where they could live, work and trade.

Finding Mexico, Iraq and Nigeria

- You will use globes and maps to find Mexico, Iraq and Nigeria and their early civilisations.

Investigate buildings and landscapes

- You will use puzzles to investigate Maya and Abbasid buildings and West African landscapes.
- You will describe and compare the buildings and landscapes that you see.
- The Maya and Abbasids built stone buildings and early Nigerians used wood and earth.

Learning from objects

- Objects can help us to understand how people live.
- You will work in groups to examine objects and materials from Mexico, Iraq and Nigeria.
- You will try to explain what the objects tell us about the Maya, Abbasids and early Nigerians.