

# Anglo-Saxons and Vikings



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When the Anglo-Saxons arrived in Britain, most kept clear of Roman towns. They preferred to live in small villages. So, some Roman towns, like London, was never left empty of people. Many Roman buildings did become ruins though, because no one bothered or knew how to repair them. Houses were built inside the walls of roman towns. Others cleared spaces in the forest to build villages and make new fields.



# HOUSE

In an Anglo-Saxon family, everyone from babies to old people shared a home. Anglo-Saxon houses were built of wood and had thatched roofs. At West Stow in Suffolk archaeologists found the remains of an early Anglo-Saxon village. They reconstructed it using Anglo-Saxon methods. They found that the village was made up of small groups of houses built around a larger hall. Each family house had one room, with a hearth with a fire for cooking, heating and light.



# Clothes



People wore clothes made from woolen cloth or animal skins.

Men wore tunics, with tight trousers

Women spun the wool from sheep and goats to make thread.



They used a loom to weave the thread into cloth.

Clothing styles varied from region to region. For instance, an Anglian woman fastened her dress with a long brooch.



A Saxon woman used a round brooch. Clothing also changed over time.

# Jobs

Men, women and children helped on the farm. Men cut down trees to clear land for ploughing and sowing crops. Farmers used oxen to pull ploughs up and down long strip-fields. Children looked after the farm animals. They kept a lookout for wolves - which still lived in Britain at this time.



Some people had special skills. Tools such as knives and swords were made by craftsmen. Woodworkers made wooden bowls, furniture, carts and wheels.