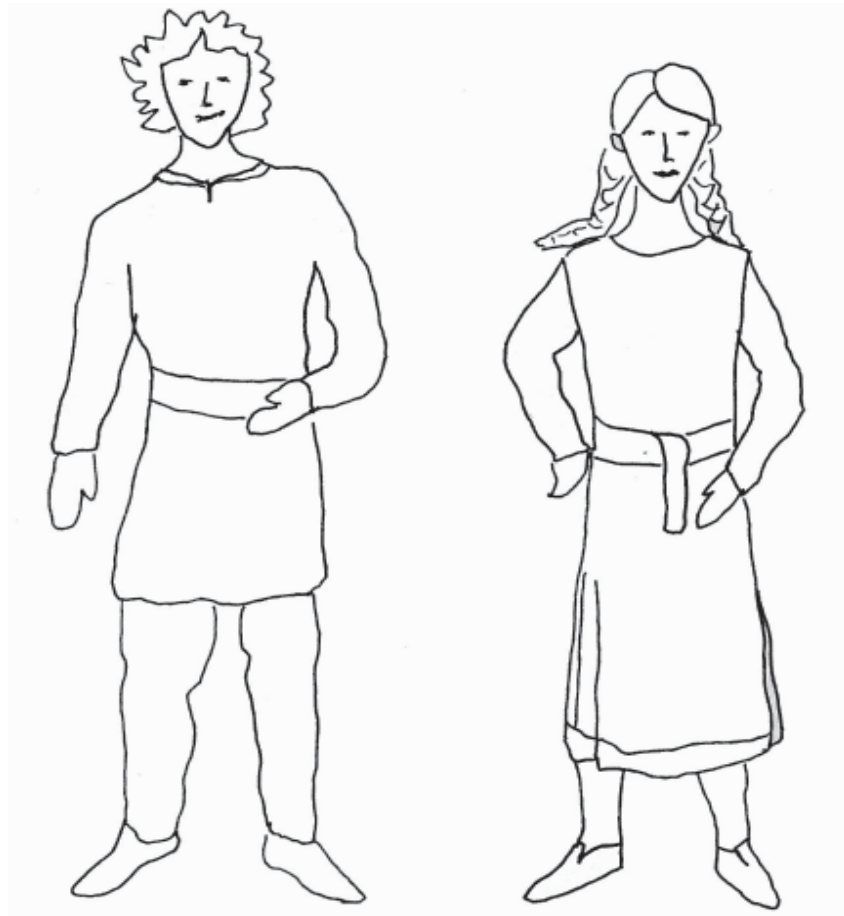


a day in the life... the anglo-saxons

getting dressed...

Boys wore long-sleeved under-shirts and baggy trousers with wool tunics over the top. The tunic would be secured with a belt.

Both boys and girls would wear short knives on their belts: they used these for domestic chores.



Girls wore long-sleeved shifts with wool tunics over the top. The tunic was held in place by two brooches on the shoulders and by a belt around the waist.

Both boys and girls would wear short knives on their belts: they used these for domestic chores.

Find examples of knives, brooches and belt-buckles on the 'Anglo-Saxon Discovery' website.

Draw them on the picture of the boy and girl above.

anglo-saxon word match

swurd

brid

faeder

wudu

modor

brothor

hund

scild

swoster

dog

sister

brother

shield

bird

sword

wood

father

mother

Many Anglo-Saxon words are similar to words we use today.

Can you guess what these Anglo-Saxon words mean, and match them to the English words?

What did Anglo-Saxon boys and girls do?... during the day...

looking after animals

Anglo-Saxon boys and girls would look after all the different animals in the settlement.

These animals included cows, sheep, chickens, goats and horses.

collecting wool and spinning

Anglo-Saxon girls were too young to weave the cloth that their clothes were made out of. So they would help the older girls and women by collecting wool from the sheep and goats and spinning it to make yarn.

chopping wood and building the hearth fire

The hearth was the main fire inside Anglo-Saxon houses. It was used for cooking, heating and providing light. It was very important that this fire was kept burning all day.

Boys and girls would chop the firewood for the hearth and check that the fire was burning well.

Look for evidence of all these activities on the 'Anglo Saxon Discovery' web site.

preparing food

Boys and girls would collect grain to grind into flour, which would then be baked into bread.

In the morning they would help prepare the day's main meal (usually stew) as well as collect eggs and make cheese or butter.

hunting and fighting training

As the boys grew older they would start their training in hunting and fighting. The men in the settlement would teach them how to use a bow and arrow, axes and swords.



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in the evening...

While the Anglo-Saxons ate and drank they would listen to people telling stories. Their favourite stories involved brave warriors and their adventures, for example the story of Beowulf, a heroic prince who killed many monsters.

The story-teller would be accompanied by people playing music. Common instruments that the Anglo-Saxons played were the lyre and the horn flute.

Circle-dancing was also a favourite activity of the Anglo-Saxons.