



Saxon Bling

Who were the Anglo-Saxons?

- The Anglo-Saxons were a group of people who migrated to Britain in the fifth century AD.
- They came from modern-day Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands.

Photo: An example of Anglo-Saxon jewellery.

Anglo-Saxons Treasures Unearthed!

15 years ago, an Anglo-Saxon tomb was unearthed next to a supermarket in Southend. After many years of painstaking research, **archaeologists** say they believe it probably belonged to a prince.

The site has revealed some precious treasures. So many, in fact, that it's been called England's **equivalent** to Tutankhamen's tomb. This was a pharaoh's tomb found in Egypt that included many treasures.

Archaeologists now believe it could have belonged to a prince called Saexa. He was the brother of King Saeberth, who was King of Essex between AD604 and AD616.

The prince was buried with a precious sword, an iron stool for him to sit on and gold decorated drinking **vessels**. His treasure also included a lyre, a stringed musical instrument, so he could be entertained in the afterlife.

The Anglo-Saxons came to Britain in the fifth century AD. A lot of written information comes from an Anglo-Saxon writer called Bede. He said they were three different groups: the Angles, Saxons and Jutes.

These peoples moved from modern-day Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands to Britain.

Unlike their **predecessors**, the Romans, it's more **difficult** for historians to study them. They didn't leave many written records when they first arrived in Britain.

This evidence though will help them learn more about the Saxons.

A permanent display of the objects will be opening at Southend Central Museum shortly.

Glossary

archaeologists	People who study history through artefacts.
equivalent	The same as or very similar to.
vessels	Hollow containers used to hold liquids.
predecessors	People who came before another group.

Questions

1. In the introduction, find and copy an adjective that shows the research was difficult for the archaeologists.

2. What was the name of the prince who archaeologists believe was buried in the grave?

3. Why do you think it took the archaeologists 15 years to say that it could have belonged to an Anglo-Saxon prince?

4. Which people lived in Britain before the Anglo-Saxons? Tick one.

- ☐ The Romans
- ☐ The Vikings
- ☐ The Tudors
- ☐ The Victorians

5. Why is it more difficult for historians to learn about life in Anglo-Saxon England?

6. How do you think people in Southend will react to this news? Explain your answer.

7. Do you think more children will become interested in archaeology after reading this story?
