

Loan Box

# Explore: Viking & Saxon Britain

Teachers Resource



Museum  
Gallery  
Archive



# Loan Box



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# Introduction

This Teachers' Resource accompanies the schools Loan Box, Viking and Saxon Britain, available to hire from The Box.

To dig deeper into this topic, you can book a Prehistory school workshop at The Box. It's an unforgettable chance to hold and explore our Prehistoric objects, guided by expert learning facilitators.

Go to [theboxplymouth.com](http://theboxplymouth.com) to book your visit.

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## Risk assessment

Please conduct a risk assessment of these objects before using them with your class. Some of the objects included within this box have sharp edges, which you might need to treat with care with your students.

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## Lost/damaged items

If you have lost or damaged any items, please inform us as soon as possible, using this email address: [TheBoxLearning@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:TheBoxLearning@plymouth.gov.uk)

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## Loan Box contents

This Loan Box is full of amazing replica Viking and Saxon objects that look and feel like the real thing!

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### What's in the box?

Horn drinking vessel (small)  
Horn drinking vessel (large)  
Metal arm pin decoration  
Shallow clay bowl  
Glass drinking vessel with metal stand  
11 x Wooden runes  
Horn drinking vessel with handle  
5 x Coins  
Cloak pin  
Pot with three handles and spout  
Wooden plate





Ideas **for**  
**activities**

There are lots of different ways to use these objects with your class. Here are three ideas to start you off:

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## 1. Topic starter: mystery object

Inspire your students at the start of your topic by using object-based-learning techniques.

### **Split your class into groups of 5-6 students**

Give each group one object from this Loan Box. Select objects that you think the students might not have seen before – these are ‘mystery objects’.

Challenge your students to ask and answer questions about the objects, to find out as much about them as possible. You can use the object enquiry questions below to help you.

This is the same technique that real Archaeologists use if they find an object and don’t know what it is. Sometimes they find something that has never been found before!

### **Some object enquiry questions:**

- What is it made out of?
- How do you think it was made?
- What does it feel like – how heavy is it?
- Does it have a smell?
- Does it look like anything you’ve seen before? Can you think of anything that is similar?
- How do you think it might have been used?

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You can deepen the enquiry by asking follow up questions:

- What can you say about the person or people who made it?  
For example, are they skilful, artistic, inventive?
- Where could the material it is made out of have come from and what does that tell us about the people who made or owned it?  
For example, is it found locally, did it have to use chemistry to be made, is it difficult to obtain?
- What kind of society would be needed to produce this object?  
Was it made by one person working on their own, or different people with different jobs?

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## 2. Topic enhancer: research skills

Use the objects during the teaching of your topic, to enhance your teaching with a tangible experience.

Can your students find out more about the objects in the Loan Box? We would love to see what they discover! Photos of research posters can be shared with us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with the handle @theboxplymouth. Why not combine research skills with your ICT teaching, by using a free presentation app like Padlet or Explain Everything.

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### 3. Cross-curricular: arts, science, oracy

#### **Arts**

Objects in museums have been the inspiration for great art for many years. Take one object or a group of objects from this Loan Box, and use them as a starting point for your students' own creations.

#### **Science**

Challenge your students to research how the objects in this Loan Box were made. What is the chemistry behind creating these materials? What scientific processes are involved in their production?

#### **Oracy: Dragon's Den**

Invite your students to imagine they had made one of the objects in this Loan Box. Can they pitch the idea to a panel of their peers? Why do they think this is a great object that the Dragons should reproduce? What skills have gone into making it? How can it be used? What impact will it have on history?



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