

Treehouse Theatre

Key Stage 2 Class Drama Workshops

Living with the Anglo-Saxons

This workshop is linked to the 2014 KS2 history curriculum unit
“Britain’s Settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots”

*“really good fun, there was lots to do, the pace was good, and the children learned a great deal in the short time they had”
Marshwood School*

‘Living with the Saxons’ is a re-enactment workshop about life in England during the Saxon Era. It is ‘set’ at approximately 600AD, in a Saxon Village.



The workshop is framed as a day in the life of a Saxon Village.

The workshop includes: demonstration of household trades, fighting drill, dispute settlement, riddles and story-telling.

Children start off by dressing up, getting their Saxon name, and then dividing into four households: Weavers, Dairy, Bakers, Leather-workers.



A visiting storyteller (a Scop) is coming to the village, so each household is given props and information and asked to prepare a short scene showing how they have made their gift for the Scop.

Each household in turn performs their scene to the rest of the class.

For example, the Weavers will show how they protect the sheep from wolves, shear the sheep, prepare the wool, and weave it into a scarf for the story teller.

Next the children use spears and shields to practice shield wall formation and war chants.

Following a ‘death’ during the battle training, we see Saxon dispute settlement in action.

“Children all participated and thoroughly enjoyed acting out the battle” St Monica Primary

In the evening the Village gathers at a long table.

The Scop arrives, the children tell riddles and present their household gifts, and the workshop concludes with “The Tale of Beowulf and the Dragon”.



Practicalities

Each workshop is
1 hour 15 mins,
for 1 class at a time.
Maximum per day is 4 classes.