

DAILY LIFE IN ANGLO SAXON ENGLAND

- Everyday life in Anglo Saxon England was hard and rough even for the rich. Society was divided into three classes.
- The Thanes
- The Churls
- The Thralls

The Thanes

- At the top were the thanes, the Saxon upper class. They enjoyed hunting and feasting and they were expected to give their followers gifts like weapons.



The Churls

- Below them were the churls. Some churls were reasonably well off. Others were very poor. However at least they were free.
- Some churls owned their own land but many 'rented' land from a thane. They 'paid rent' by working on the thane's land for part of the week and by giving him part of their crops.



The Thralls

- Below them were a class of slaves called thralls. Their lives were *very* hard.



Town names

- The Anglo Saxons also gave us most English [place names](#). Anglo Saxon place name endings include: ham, a village or estate, tun a farm or estate, hurst, a wooded hill and bury, which is derived from the Anglo Saxon word burh, meaning fortress or fortified settlement.
- Stow or stowe is usually derived from stowe, which meant meeting place. [Bristol](#) was brigg stowe, the meeting place by the bridge.

Farmers in Anglo Saxon England

- The vast majority of Anglo Saxons made their living from farming. Up to 8 oxen pulled ploughs and fields were divided into 2 or sometimes 3 huge strips. One strip was ploughed and sown with crops while the other was left fallow.



Homes in Anglo Saxon England

- The Anglo Saxons lived in wooden huts with thatched roofs. Usually there was only one room shared by everybody. (Poor people shared their huts with animals divided from them by a screen. During the winter the animals body heat helped keep the hut warm). Thanes and their followers slept on beds but the poorest people slept on the floor.



Food in Anglo Saxon England

- Anglo Saxon women ground grain, baked bread and brewed beer. Another Anglo Saxon drink was mead, made from fermented honey.
- They also made butter and cheese. Anglo Saxons ate from wooden bowls. There were no forks only knives and wooden spoons. Cups were made from cow horn.
- The ordinary people usually ate a dreary diet of bread, cheese and eggs.



Clothes in Saxon England

- Anglo Saxon men wore a shirt and tunic. They wore trouser like garments called breeches. Sometimes they extended to the ankle but sometimes they were shorts. Men might wear wool leggings held in place by leather garters. They wore cloaks held in place by brooches.

