



Unit 2 Lesson 2 Anglo-Saxons

Crib Sheet

Slide 1: Our unit of work is focusing on the history of the English language and how we have ended up with such a rich, varied, vibrant and interesting vocabulary. Today we will be hearing and reading and learning about Anglo Saxon.

Slide 2: Click the picture to begin a video clip of Old English being spoken by Professor Jackson of Hillsdale College. Explain that Anglo-Saxon is often known as Old English. We can hear some words we recognise and we feel comfortable with the cadence – this is the backbone of our English language. The extract is from the epic poem Beowulf written in Anglo Saxon. Ask pupils what, if anything, they understood? What did they like about the sounds they heard? Does it sound like any language they have heard before?

Slide 3: Read through the background information provided on the slide. The map on the right shows how tribes from different areas of Northern Europe travelled to different parts of the UK. Academics have described how these invaders were not entirely foreign to us but should be seen more as “cousins” with similar ways of life, but different language.

Slide 4: Read out the information about Old English. The picture chosen is the first section of Beowulf. (More on Beowulf next week).

Slide 5: Ask pupils to read the prayer aloud. Æ is pronounced “a” and þ is pronounced “th”. Every letter should be pronounced. Can they recognise the prayer? It is the Lord’s Prayer. What links can they see with modern English? It helps to say the words aloud rather than read them.

Slide 6: What are these words concerning? What are they about? They are about everyday life. Family, the body, money, animals, food, home. Many of the words are short, even monosyllabic.

Slide 7: Anglo Saxon suffixes include -hood, -ing, -ness, -dom. Can pupils think of an example for each? There are many more linked to place names – but that is an entire lesson on its own later in the course. Anglo Saxon also influenced our modern grammar: the construction of the past “ed” and the plural “s” and “en.”

Slide 8: The picture is of the Exeter Book. Read the information at the top of the slide. Ask pupils to work with a partner to read aloud the Anglo-Saxon riddle on their worksheet and examine the links between the Anglo-Saxon and Modern English. Can they work out the riddle? A bookworm (someone who loves reading).

Slide 9: Read out the various ways we know about Old English. The picture is of the Caistor Rune found in Caistor St. Edmund, Norfolk and currently housed at Norwich Castle Museum. (We are looking more closely at Runes later in the course).

Slide 10: Pupils now have a chance to work independently or in pairs to solve the Anglo-Saxon puzzle on their worksheet. This puzzle is taken from the UKLO archive.



The World of Languages
and Languages of the World



Slide 11: A 5,4,3,2,1 plenary to close the lesson. Use directed questioning if short on time or ask pupils to discuss in pairs.