

Have a go at paper weaving



The Anglo-Saxons liked symmetry in the designs they used for their cloth and jewellery. For example, if you draw a line down a piece of their cloth you would find the design on one side of the line exactly the same as the design on the other side of the line. Are you going to use symmetry in your design?

You will need:

A4 paper, strips of wrapping paper in different colours/designs, scissors, sticky tape, glue stick, foam stickers (optional) and other decorating materials (optional).

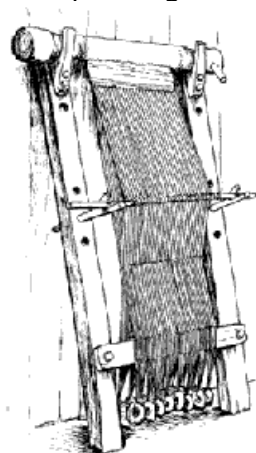
Instructions:

1. Fold your piece of A4 paper in half (*not* lengthways).
2. Cut 6-7 lines using the scissors. Try to make them roughly the same distance apart and don't go to the edge of the paper – leave about a 3cm gap all around the edge.
3. Open your sheet of paper. Select up to eight strips to weave in and out; you can also use the ribbon to weave with too. You can use sticky tape and glue to secure the ends of your strips to the paper.
4. When you have finished weaving you can use more sticky tape on the back to secure the strips.
5. Now decorate with the any materials you have such as stickers. Remember: the Anglo Saxons liked symmetrical designs!

Find out more about Anglo Saxon weaving...

Weaving wool into cloth would have been done mainly by Anglo-Saxon women. They would have used a type of loom known as a warp-weighted loom to weave the material .

These looms had a wooden frame from which threads of wool were hung. In an Anglo-Saxon house the loom probably stood against a wall since it was quite large.



Clay weights were used to keep the vertical threads tight. Wool was then woven in front and behind these vertical threads to create the material.

A thread picker was used to push the threads together so that they were tightly woven and there were no holes in the material.

After the material was woven it could be sewn into clothes and other useful items. Can you think of other things the Anglo-Saxons might have used cloth for?