

## Let's imagine: Anglo-Saxon pot

Each week the Museum is going to publish a 'Let's Imagine' activity sheet. This activity sheet will include a picture of an object in the Museum. It will tell you about the object and then it will be up to you to imagine a story, poem and/or picture inspired by this object. The sheet will include at least three questions or statements to help get you started and inspired.

This week's object is an **Anglo-Saxon pot or bowl** that can be found in the permanent exhibition. Read the information in blue below to find out more about this type of pot or bowl.



Imagine you have to describe this pot or bowl to a friend. What would you say?

Draw a pot or bowl and decorate it with patterns.

Write a story or poem about being transported back in time to Anglo-Saxon Britain. You witness a burial at East Shefford. Describe what you see.

This is an Anglo-Saxon pot or bowl made from clay. It was found in an early Anglo-Saxon (pagan) cemetery in East Shefford. It is a dark-coloured pottery with line decoration, a pressed decoration around the rim, and a garland type decoration probably made using a bone, antler or wooden stamp (that was pressed onto the wet clay before firing).

The pot is an awkward shape suggesting either a fault or a pot that was handmade (not wheel-made). Highly decorated pots like these, often called burial urns, were used to hold the ashes of a cremated person and/or their grave goods, which are items probably intended for the afterlife.

The bodies in this cemetery were buried and not cremated and so the burial urns found contained grave goods, including: a glass beaker, two toilet sets, several brooches, pins, beads of glass and amber, spearheads and 'scramasaxes', besides other things of unknown use. Impressions of cloth were found on clay and also some rust on tweezers.