

Let's imagine: dragon

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 a **dragon** that can be found in the permanent exhibition. Read the information in blue below to find out more about it.



Imagine you need to describe this object to a friend. What do you say?

Imagine a dragon. Name and draw a picture of your dragon.

Write a story or poem about being transported back in time to Anglo-Saxon times. You meet the craftsman who made this object. What do you ask them?

This an Anglo-Saxon object made by in silver (and gilded) by a craftsman. It is probably a dragon, the most prominent feature of this object (the dragon) being its rolled tongue.

It is hollow at one end so may have been attached to a wooden stick or handle, but for what purpose is unknown.

There are other details on the item: the muzzle, eyes and upright ears of a dragon can be seen with close observation. When viewed from above, the eyes are large tear-drop shapes tapering into spirals, which may be its ears; these are all gilded. It has a long muzzle ending in two very elongated nostrils, which are gilded too.

Dragons were very popular in Anglo-Saxon art, culture and crafts, often being used in jewellery, on the prows of their ships and in stories of dragons guarding a wondrous treasure.