



Anglo-Saxon Writing

Chippenham was the meeting place for the Chippenham Hundred. This was how the Anglo-Saxons divided up and ran their kingdoms. This meant Chippenham had special freedoms but also extra responsibilities. Records about his royal lands were probably made for the King. On display in the museum is an Anglo-Saxon stylus, a writing tool used to scratch letters onto a wax tablet.

When the Anglo-Saxons converted to Christianity they began to use the Roman alphabet for writing (as we still do today). Before that time, they wrote using runes.

Here is the Anglo-Saxon runic alphabet.



The word RUNE means secret or mystery. Runes had a religious meaning and were used in religious ceremonies. Can you write your name in runes?

Write a message for someone in your house and see if they can translate it.

Runes were made up of straight lines, which made them easier to carve. A single rune represents U, V and W. Design your own runes to represent each of these letters. Remember straight lines only!