

Applying skills: 3D ANGLO-SAXON HOUSES

These 3D models of Anglo-Saxon houses covered in textures made with stick and ink can be used to create a class village, developing model-making and drawing skills and embedding knowledge of Anglo-Saxon building materials. (Of course you could easily adapt to another time period.) For ink drawing basics see Building Skills: DRAWING WITH STICK AND INK

Materials needed:

- **A3 white card** (to print house nets onto) - the card needs to be thick enough for model making but thin enough to go through the photocopier. 200-300gsm thickness is about right (but check your photocopier). There are 3 differently proportioned nets for a more interesting display on pages 3-6.
- **Indian ink** - this can be found in art shops but is best found online as there are much more affordable options available with a little searching.
- **Sticks** - A wooden kebab stick snapped in half makes a perfect tool.
- **Aprons** - Indian ink is waterproof which makes it a versatile art materials (it can be used later with watercolour without any 'bleeding') but it also means it will stain clothes. Explain this to your class and make sure they all wear aprons and roll up their sleeves.
- **Small pots** - small containers work better as students will only need a very small amount in a pot which also works to reduce spillages. One small pot with just enough ink to dip into between two or three students works best. Always make sure the ink is the last thing onto the table and the first thing to be removed and encourage children to remain in their seats while working.
- **Scissors**
- **Glue sticks**
- **Sticky tape** (optional but handy for those who struggle to put the net together)
- **Reference material** about Anglo Saxon houses / images of the materials used to draw from.



Method:

Start by cutting out the house nets - only the solid lines are to be cut (the dotted lines are for folding). Using a ruler and a sharp pencil (or ballpoint pen) score* along the dotted lines. *Scoring is a really useful technique to teach students and means that card will fold much more accurately.

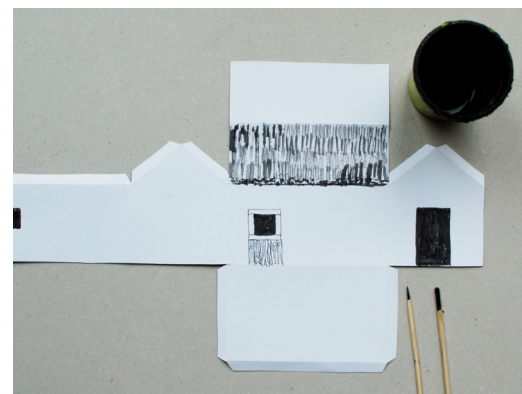
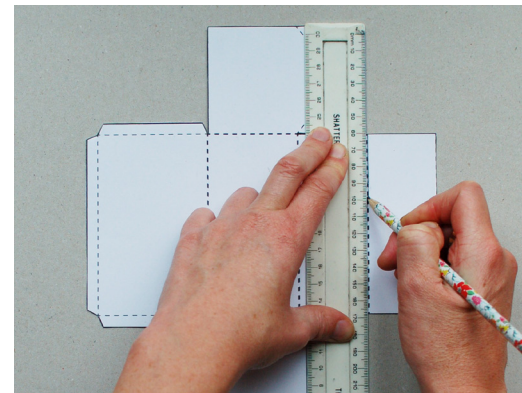
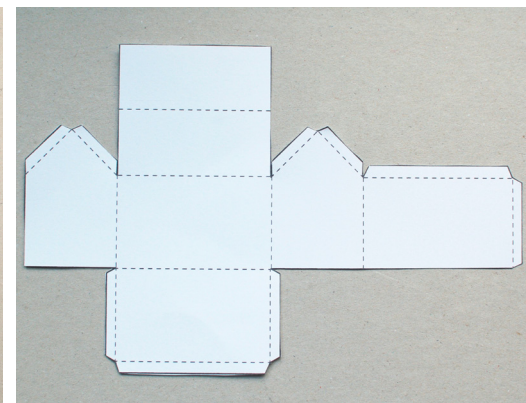
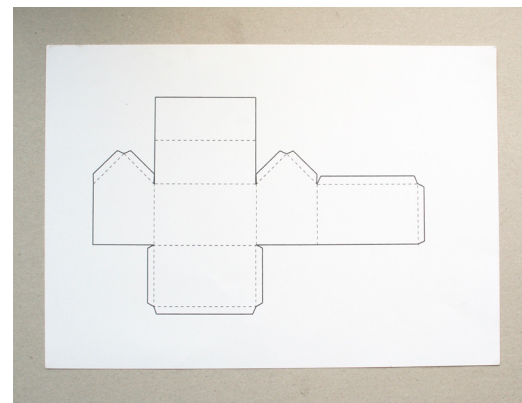
Fold along all the dotted lines and bend the net into a house shape. Ideally the printed lines will be on the inside. Do not stick it together at this stage. Assembling to this point allows students to visualise which parts of the net will be the sides, roofs and bottom of the houses (they may even want to mark this information onto the net lightly in pencil. Then flatten out the net again.

Using sticks and ink (see building skills: ink and stick for more info) focus on drawing the different textures of different building materials on the appropriate parts of the building. eg straw/reed texture on the roof and wood/wattle and daub texture on the walls. Remember the doors and windows would be small and minimal to keep the cold out.

When the drawing is finished, allow the ink to dry before refolding the nets into their final shape, this time applying glue to the tabs to stick into place. This step is a little fiddly and some students may need some assistance (or sticky tape!).

Further Ideas:

- For a simpler, quicker project the houses could be created as simple 2d illustrations, which could then be mounted as a 3d class display using cardboard props.
- The activity could be extended to create a more in-depth class village by arranging and adding fences, tracks, people and animals.



These resources were created by illustrators Sion Ap Tomos, Merlin Strangeway and Toya Walker as part of a four year project with three Islington primary schools funded by Children and the Arts.

They all addressed a wide range of specific curriculum units using illustration, enabling the children to develop illustration and visual communication skills. With thanks to the pupils and teachers at Copenhagen, Robert Blair and St Andrew's Primary Schools.

