Anglo-Saxon Design – Draw a wall-hanging for an Anglo-Saxon hall

Archaeologists have found an important Anglo-Saxon settlement at Rendlesham in Suffolk. The coins and gold treasures found there tell us this was once a royal residence, probably belonging to the early kings of East Anglia.

We know that there were also people living here who were craftsmen making accessories and tools for the kings and to sell at markets.

There was probably a big building here called a 'hall' where the kings would have lived and held feasts. We know that the inside of the hall would have been decorated.

In the tale of Beowulf, the inside of the great hall 'Heorot' was fully furnished to be the "best of royal halls".

Wall hangings were probably used to decorate the halls; they were made from fabric and would have told stories or had symbols.

Activity: Draw your own Anglo-Saxon wall-hanging.
Use these design tips for inspiration.

Tell a story with your drawing. Who are your characters? What are they doing?

Use Anglo-Saxon colours of red, yellow, blue, green, brown, black, gold and purple.

Think about including some of these ideas: kings, queens, warriors, ships, horses, swords, helmets, shields, treasure, a hall.

Think about using Anglo-Saxon runes to write names or words.

Think about including Anglo-Saxon gods: Woden was the king of the gods, Thunor was the god of thunder, Frige was the goddess of love and Tiw was the god of war.

Draw your design in the box below