

# All About Anglo-Saxon Gods



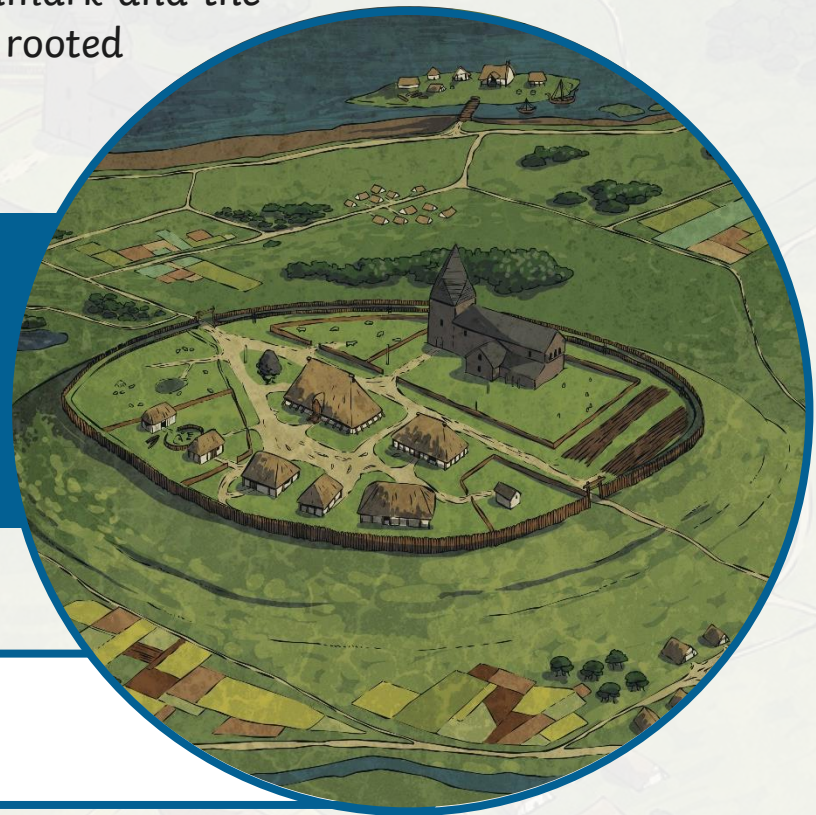
twinkl

# Where Did the Anglo-Saxon Gods Come From?

After the Romans left Britain, the Anglo-Saxons (Angles, Saxons and Jutes) arrived across the North Sea from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands and with them came beliefs rooted in Norse mythology.

In the Norse legends, there were two groups of gods, whom the Anglo-Saxons called Ese and Wena. In time, Ese won over the Wena and the Ese became the rulers over the Wena.

The leader of the Ese, Woden, became King of all the gods.



# Woden – King of the Gods

The Anglo-Saxons held the gods in such high esteem that four days of the week were named after them. These also link to how the Romans named the seven-day week.

Day	The Roman name	Roman meaning	The god after whom the Anglo Saxons named their days
Monday	dies Lunae	The Day of the Moon	
Tuesday	dies Martis	The Day of Mars	Tiw
Wednesday	dies Mercurii	The Day of Mercury	Woden
Thursday	dies Iovis	The Day of Jupiter	Thuner
Friday	dies Veneris	The Day of Venus	Frige
Saturday	dies Saturni	The Day of Saturn	
Sunday	dies Solis	The Day of The Sun	

**Find out more:** Look up the French words for days of the week, what you notice?

# Woden – King of the Gods

**Name:** Woden

**Nickname:** Grim

**Jobs:** chief of the gods, god of war

**Family:** husband of Frige, father of Thunor and Bealdor

**Sacred Animals:** wolf, raven

**Sacred Plant:** ash tree

**Equivalent Roman God:** Mercury

**Equivalent Norse God:** Odin

**Sacred Weapon:** spear

## Characteristics

Woden was sometimes shown with one eye, two pet wolves and a horse with eight legs.



# Frige – Goddess of the Home

**Name:** Frige

**Jobs:** goddess of the home, marriage, childbirth, Earth and harvest

**Family:** married to Woden, mother of Thunor and Bealdor

**Sacred Animal:** stork

**Sacred Star Constellation:** Orion's Belt

**Sacred Tool:** spinning wheel

**Equivalent Norse God:** Frigg (married to Odin)

**Equivalent Roman God:** Venus



# Thunor – God of Thunder

**Name:** Thunor

**Job:** god of storms, thunder and lightning

**Family:** son of Woden

**Sacred Animal:** goat

**Sacred Plant:** oak tree

**Sacred Weapon:** hammer

**Equivalent Norse God:** Thor

**Equivalent Roman God:** Jupiter

## Characteristics

Thunor was often depicted on a chariot pulled by goats.



# Freo – Goddess of Love

**Name:** Freo

**Job:** goddess of love

**Family:** sister of Ingui

**Sacred Animals:** cat, boar

**Equivalent Norse God:** Freya

**Equivalent Roman God:** Venus

## Characteristics

Freo wore a magic cloak of falcon feathers and a necklace called 'Brisingamen'.



# Eostre – Goddess of Spring

**Name:** Eostre

**Job:** goddess of spring, goddess of rebirth

**Sacred Animal:** hare

**Sacred Symbol:** egg

**Equivalent Norse God:** Austra

**Equivalent Roman God:** Aurora

**Special Month:** April  
(around where Easter is now)



# Tiw – God of War

**Name:** Tiw

**Job:** god of war, justice and a sky god

**Sacred Animal:** wolf

**Equivalent Norse God:** Tyr

**Equivalent Roman God:** Mars



## Characteristics

Tiw was often shown as having only one hand.

# Bealdor – God of Light

**Name:** Bealdor

**Job:** god of light

**Family:** son of Woden and Frige

**Equivalent Norse God:** Baldr

**Equivalent Roman God:** Apollo

## Characteristics

He gave off light from his good looks, generosity and goodness.



# Other Gods and Goddesses



**Name:** Hretha

**Job:** goddess of fame, goddess of war

**Special Month:** March

**Places:** The names of places beginning with Rad, Red or Read are probably after her.