Anglo Saxon cremation urns

Cremation urns were used by the Anglo Saxons as a pagan alternative to burial before the conversion to Christianity. Aldeburgh Museum have a large selection of Anglo Saxon cremation urns which were found in 1862 at Snape.

These pots were accompanied by grave goods including food, jewellery and weapons. They were made from clay and decorated in a variety of patterns using stamps. The more decorated the pot, the more important the cremated person was!

You can see this at The Aldeburgh Museum

MAKE a Salt dough pot

You will need - 1 cup of flour, ½ cup of water, ½ cup salt, Mixing bowl and wooden spoon

1. Mix together the flour and salt in the mixing bowl.

2. Stir water into the mixture.

3. Stir well until it becomes a dough, add more flour if your mixture is a bit sticky.

4. Give the dough a good kneading with your hands.

5. Roll the dough out and get creating!

Pinch and turn your dough to make a pot. Remember to add some marks and symbols onto your pot.

6. Once the pot has been left for a few days in a warm place to air dry, your pot will be ready and you can paint it. You can also bake for a couple of hours on a low oven setting for quicker results.

30 fun ways to discover Aldeburgh’s heritage
Download activity sheets @ aldeburghmuseum.org.uk and brittenpears.org
**MAkE a bird mask**

**You will need**- A4 Sheet of card, A4 sheet of coloured paper, A4 sheet of yellow paper, scissors, glue stick, pen, stapler, string

1. Fold your card in half. Draw an eye hole and a shape around the eye hole to attach feathers.

2. Cut this shape out and then carefully cut out the eye hole.

3. Open it out and you should have the base for your mask.

4. Prepare your feathers- fold coloured paper as many times as you can, and then cut out lots of crescent shapes.

5. Stick each feather onto your mask with the glue stick.

6. Once you have your mask completely covered in feathers it’s time to make the beak. Cut your yellow paper in half and roll it to make a cone. Glue the cone together.

7. Fold the beak along the outside edges and cut around the back to square it off.

8. Create flaps on the top of the beak so you can glue your beaks to the mask.

9. Use a few more feathers to cover the flaps that you glued down and add more details with colour pencils.

10. Once dry, attach a string to the back with a stapler, tying a knot so it is the correct size.

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**Chicken Headdress**

This headdress is a piece of costume from an opera by Benjamin Britten, called Noyes’ Fludde (Noah’s Flood). Britten wrote this opera for children to enjoy and take part in. This is one of many animal characters that was worn by Suffolk School children in the first production of the opera at Orford Church in 1958.

You can see this at The Red House

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You can find more activities at The Red House. Download activity sheets @ aldeburghmuseum.org.uk and brittenpears.org