Dig deep into Sutton Hoo

The history of Sutton Hoo

In 1939, a team of archaeologists, led by Basil Brown, discovered something incredible – a 27-metre-long ship filled with Anglo-Saxon treasures!

The excavations took place on the land of Edith Pretty, who very generously donated all of the finds to the British Museum where you can see them today.

Now it’s your turn to hunt for Anglo-Saxon treasures. Imagine you are a Sutton Hoo archaeologist like Basil Brown or Peggy Piggot as you answer the questions!

This trail takes place in Room 41: Sutton Hoo and Europe AD 300–1100, The Sir Paul and Lady Ruddock Gallery.
1 The person buried at Sutton Hoo was a powerful king or warrior. Find three objects that would be useful in battle!

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2 The treasures from Sutton Hoo came from around the world. Match the objects to the places they were made.

a Anastasius Dish
b Garnets used in shoulder clasps

1 Sri Lanka
2 Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul in Turkey)

3 There are several creatures hiding in the Sutton Hoo helmet design. How many can you spot and what do you think they are? Write your guesses below. If you're feeling brave, make a noise like one of the fearsome beasts you find!

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Now it's time to feast! Find two objects that might have been used at a banquet. How do you think they were used?

[Blank space for answers]

We no longer have a complete version of the shield found at Sutton Hoo – so here’s your chance to fill in the gaps and design your own!

Find an object made from:

- Silver
- Precious stones
- Wood
- Wool

Which has been the best preserved? Why do you think that is?
Archaeologists often make drawings to record objects. Sketch your favourite object – and don't forget to include notes on how big it is and what it's made from.

Bonus!
The Anglo-Saxons weren't the only people who lived during the time of Sutton Hoo. As you explore the rest of the Museum, look out for other objects made during the 6th–7th centuries. How many can you find? Which is your favourite?
To do at home

Were you inspired by the treasures of Sutton Hoo? Here are some ways you can continue the fun at home!

**Write a story inspired by Sutton Hoo**

- Imagine you are an archaeologist who has discovered treasure. How would you react? What happens to your discoveries?
- Travel back in time and imagine yourself as the impressive warrior who was later buried at Sutton Hoo.

**Recreate one of the treasures**

We have a [tutorial on how to make](#) your very own Sutton Hoo helmet!