

# Heritage Hunters - The Saxons

## Cool Coins & Crowns – Art & Design

- Bath was still an important place even once the Romans had left. Although the Roman Baths were abandoned and forgotten people still came to Bath to trade and to worship.
- Around 970 a mint was built in Bath. A mint is a place where coins are made. We think that at least ten different kings made their coins in Bath!
- Saxon coins look a bit different to the coins we use today. The head of the King is on one side, and there is a cross with a nice border on the other. Around the outside the King wrote his name, and sometimes where he made the coin.
- Let's look at some Saxon coins from Bath.
- On the left is a coin of Canute the Great, he was from Denmark but was King of England from 1016-1035. On his coin he wears a large crown. It looks very heavy with all the decorations on it! Why might Canute choose to wear a crown like this?
- On the right is a coin of Æthelred the Unready, he was King of England from 978-1013 and 1014-1016. His crown doesn't look like Canute's at all! Instead he is wearing a diadem, which is like a crown but smaller and based on a headband. Why might Æthelred wear a diadem rather than a crown like Canute's?
- Which crown would you prefer to wear? Why is that?
- Let's have a go at making Saxon crowns and diadems!



## Make a Saxon Crown like King Canute!

You will need: card or paper, scissors, sticky tape, coloured pens and pencil

1. Cut a strip of card long enough to fit around your head. Tape the ends of the card together. Colour it in!
2. Decide what ornaments and decorations your crown will have. Have a look at Canute's crown for help.
3. Draw your decorations onto some paper. You might like to fold your paper to cut out multiple decorations at once.
4. Colour in your decorations, but remember to leave a section clear so you can stick them onto your head band.
5. Using sticky tape or glue, stick your decorations to your headband. Try to space them out evenly.

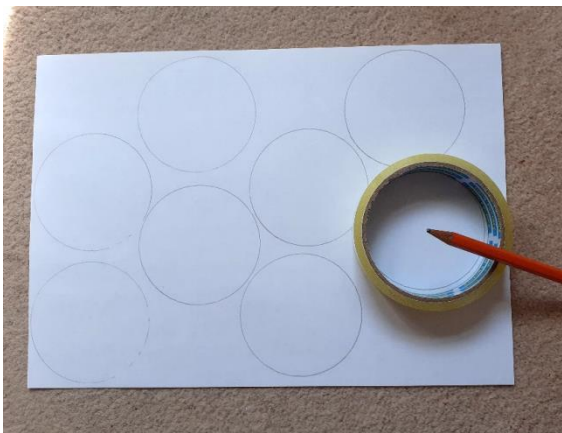


Well Done! You have made a crown like King Canute's.

## Make a Saxon Diadem like Æthelred's!

You will need: card or paper, scissors, sticky tape, coloured pens and pencil, string

1. Cut a length of string that fits around your head. Keep this safe, you will need it later.
2. Find a circular object, like a roll of sticky tape or the base of a mug. Draw around it onto a piece of paper. Keep going until the paper is full.
3. Cut out your circles and lay them out in a straight line. Lay your piece of string over the top. Do you have enough circles to make the length of your string? Cut some more circles, or remove some circles so you have the correct length in circles.
4. Carefully tape your circles together.
5. Decorate and colour in your circles.
6. Tape the two ends of your line together to turn your circles into a diadem.
7. You might like to experiment with different sizes of circle to see which size



Well done! You have made a Saxon diadem like Æthelred's!

