

# Riddling the Anglo-Saxon Way

The Anglo-Saxons loved to challenge their friends and test their wits with tricky riddles and word puzzles. Can you solve some of these?

1. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?
2. I have cities but no homes, forests but no mention of trees. What am I?
3. What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?

Anglo-Saxon riddles could be quite long, like this.



I have a shiny coat, round and bright.  
I vanish in the day, but come out at night.  
I'm a keeper of time.  
Now you've read my rhyme.  
What am I?

Now write your own! (You may want to do this in pairs or threes.)



Look for objects around Ryedale Folk Museum that you could write a riddle about.

**What will you choose?** (Keep your answer secret from other groups).

Step 1: Think about how you would **describe it**.

Is there something interesting, surprising, or unique about it that you can use in your riddle?

Does it have any special features or do anything different?

Brainstorm your ideas here.

Step 2: Think of clues – how can you describe your object whilst trying to disguise it. Try to **think of 2 or 3 ideas**.

Remember, the moon doesn't really have a coat, though it is shiny. You can be creative with your ideas!

Step 3: Once you've got your ideas, begin to write out your riddle on the back of this sheet (or on a separate piece of paper). Try to **make your lines rhyme**. Experiment with different words until you get it right.

1.

2.

3.

Finally: **Test your riddle** by sharing it with another group. You can always make changes if they find it too hard or too easy.