



# The ANGLO- SAXON Period

449 AD-1066 AD

Can you identify this piece of commonly spoken English?

Thu ure Fæder þe eart on heofunum, Sy þin nama gehalgod. Cume þin rice, Sy þinne wille on eorðan swaswa on heofonum. Syle us todaeg urne daeghwamlican hlaf. Ond forgyf us ure gyltas, swaswa we fogyfaþ þampe with us agyltaþ. Ond ne lae thu na us on constnunge, ac alys us of yfele. Soðlice

# Answer:

- Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us of evil. Amen.

# Inhabitants of Great Britain:



**Celts**—the first known inhabitants of Great Britain.

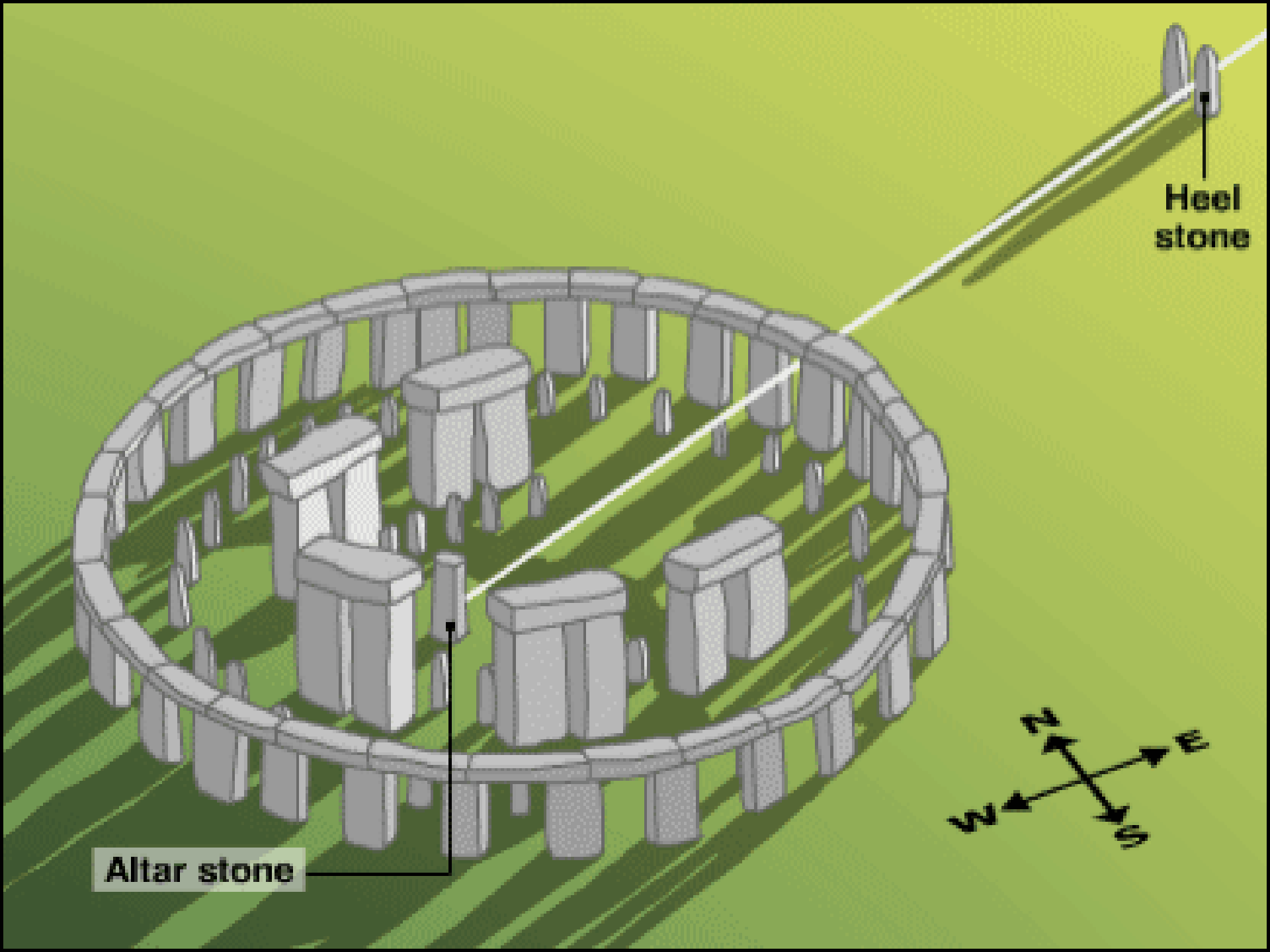
\* Tribal warriors

\* Practiced a religion called **animism**—which held the belief that spirits were in everything.

\* Some scholars believe that **Stonehenge** was built as a site for ancient religious rites.

\* Celtic mythology heavily influenced British writing of Malory (King Arthur) and W.B. Yeats





Heel  
stone

Altar stone



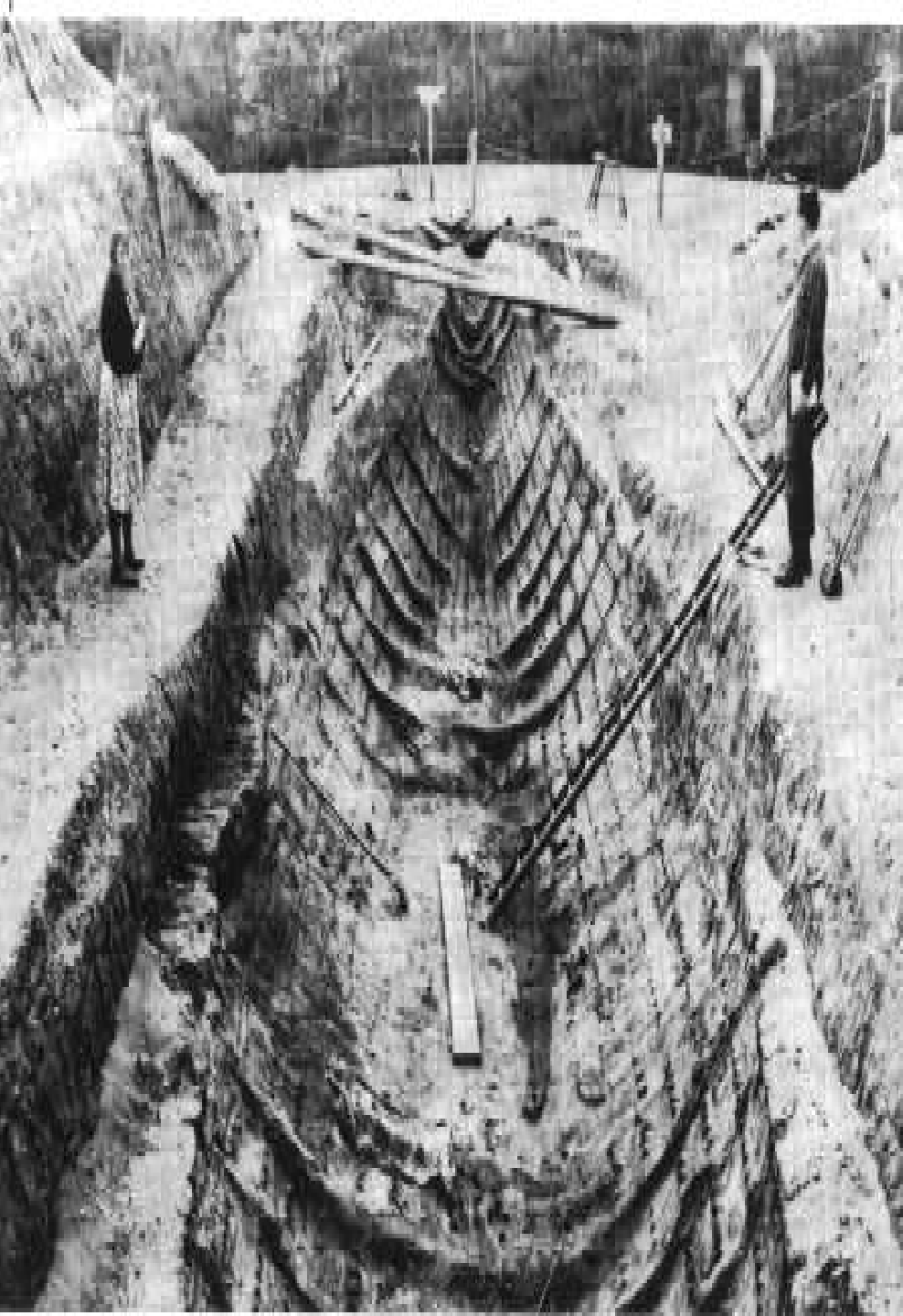












- **Sutton Hoo** is an estate near Woodbridge, Suffolk, England, is the site of an early grave of an Anglo-Saxon king.
- "The burial, one of the richest Germanic burials found in Europe, contained a ship fully equipped for the afterlife (but with no body) and threw light on the wealth and contacts of early Anglo-Saxon kings; its discovery, in 1939, was unusual because ship burial was rare in England"

# Romans

- Invaded approximately 55 B.C.
- Drove away or made slaves of the Celts.
- Brought with them a more advanced society-  
- created roads, walls, villas, public baths.
- Also brought Christianity through European missionaries who established churches and religious centers
- Romans evacuated England in 409 A.D., leaving it without a central government and open to attack.



- **The Anglo-Saxons, along with another invading tribe from Denmark called the Jutes, invaded England in 449.**
- **They drove away the few remaining Celts and established their own government.**
- **They also brought with them their language which became English.**
- **Thus the “Engla-Land” (the land of the Angles)**

# VIKINGS

A Viking warrior is depicted in a dynamic, action-oriented pose. He wears a dark, horned helmet and a dark tunic. He holds a long, straight sword aloft in his right hand. The background is a warm, golden-brown color with a subtle, repeating pattern of a Viking longship. The overall style is reminiscent of a video game or a stylized illustration.

- Made an attempt to take over England in the 8th and 9th centuries but by that time the Anglo-Saxon leaders, especially Alfred the Great had established schools, churches, and culture.
- The Anglo-Saxons were able to defeat the Vikings.







# The role of women in Anglo-Saxon life.

- \*Supervised the weaving & dyeing of clothes.**
- \*Tended the livestock.**
- \*Baked bread.**
- \*Brewed mead that was made from fermented honey.**



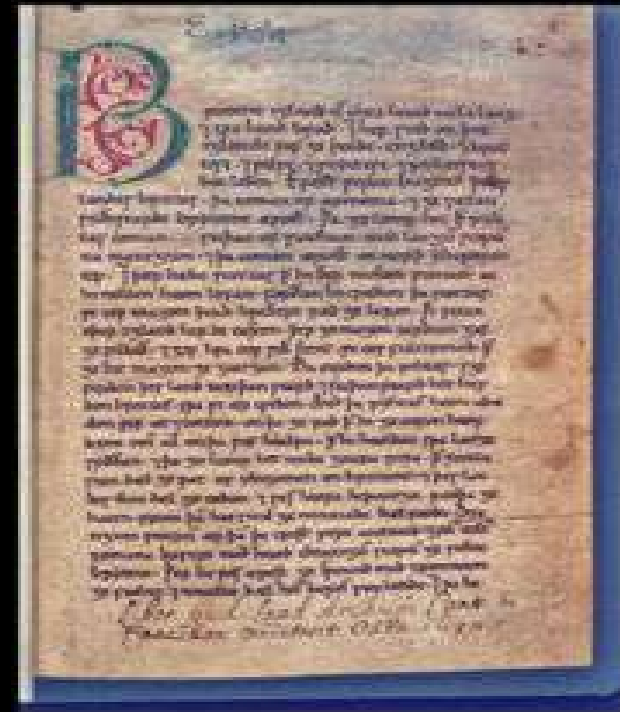
# Anglo-Saxon Lifestyle



- **Religion**—During the Anglo-Saxon period, religion was a blend of the old Anglo-Saxon beliefs and new Christian ideas.
- Still believed in many of the old A-S deities (Woden and Thor) but their religion was more concerned with ethics—bravery, loyalty, generosity, and friendship—than mysticism.

# Anglo-Saxon Literature

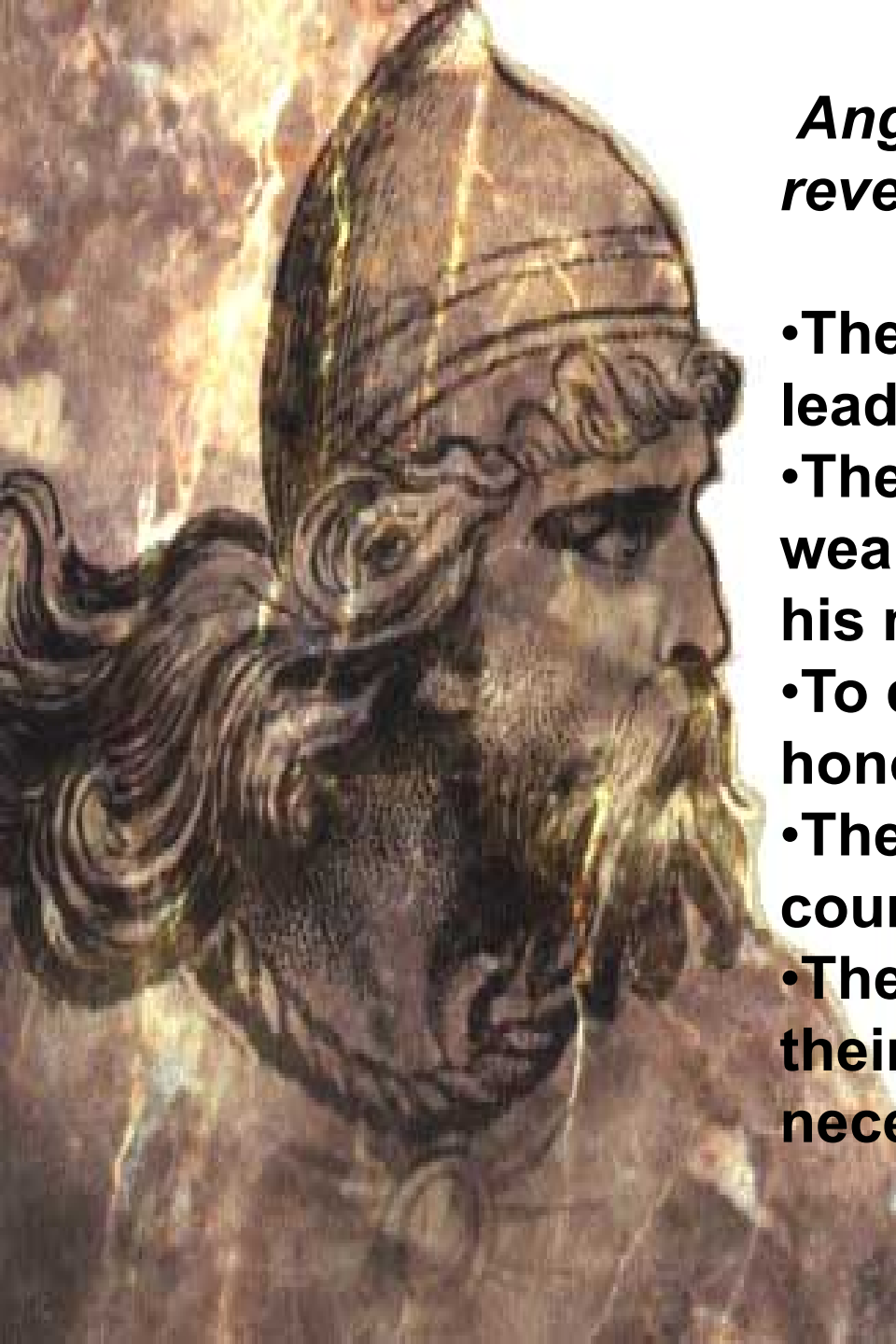
- Literature—The Anglo-Saxon communal hall (compare to a banquet hall) had many purposes, one to provide a place for storytelling.
- At gatherings, skilled storytellers, called **bards** or **scops**, sang narrative songs about god and heroes to the accompaniment of a harp.
- Stories told from the oral tradition.





## Beowulf

- \*Epic poem of a hero on a quest or journey.**
- \*Composed in Old English between 700-750.**
- \*Composed by a Christian monk because it contains Christian elements.**



***Anglo-Saxon code of conduct is revealed throughout Beowulf.***

- **The men will be loyal to their leader.**
- **The leader will provide armor and weapons, shelter, & protection for his men.**
- **To die in battle is to die with honor.**
- **The leader will reward his loyal, courageous followers with riches.**
- **The leader and his men will give their lives for each other, if necessary.**