



STUDY GUIDE: ENGLAND IN 1066

For use with

THE LAST SAXON KING

by Andrew Varga

[Online Resources](#)

First Impressions

- Why won't my phone work? And who turned out all the lights?
 - Discuss how this is a pre-technological society without electricity, combustion engines, or most of the modern conveniences that we take for granted.
 - Give examples of some of the more common things that were not available, e.g. paper, pencils, books.

Meeting the Locals

- They speak funny. Is this Shakespeare?
 - Discuss who the Anglo-Saxons were historically
 - Compare the how English of 1066 to modern English, highlighting the similarities but also explaining why the language changed.
- And their clothes look kind of funny too.
 - Discuss the standard clothes worn by men and women, and how everything was made at home with only simple fabrics like wool or linen.

Getting around Town

- I can't seem to find an Uber.
 - Discuss the modes of transportation used, primarily foot, with boat or horse additional options. Give examples of time to travel distances. For example, King Harold's army took four days to travel 200 miles—and that was considered fast. Discuss how many people never left their villages.
- How much does that souvenir tunic cost?

- Discuss the currency, including how coins were minted, the different denominations, and what various coins could buy.
- I seem to have stepped in something.
 - Talk about sanitary conditions of the cities at the time.
- Help! I've been robbed.
 - Discuss how there was no police force, and the various laws that existed to keep the peace, as well as the concept of feudalism for the security of the country.

Sightseeing

- OK, I saw Stonehenge, what's next?
 - Discuss the few sights that would have existed in 1066 versus what everyone thinks of when they think of England.
 - Discuss how churches and monasteries were the few buildings that were stone, and how even most castles did not exist yet.
 - Mention that the Roman ruins that were still around were considered "*enta geworc*" – the work of giants, and how many of the ruins were "mined" for their stone to build other buildings.

Dining

- There seems to be a mistake, I ordered the steak.
 - Discuss the typical foods that Anglo-Saxons would eat. Emphasize the vegetarian aspect of their meals, and how little meat was eaten.
- Can I have a side of fries with that?
 - Discuss the common foods that we take for granted that would not exist in Anglo-Saxon times, e.g. potatoes.

Accommodations

- Do you have something with a king-sized bed?
 - Discuss the typical Anglo-Saxon dwelling including materials used, size, and building methods, as well as lack of windows and window coverings.
- I thought this was a pet-free establishment.
 - Discuss the types of animals common for Anglo-Saxons, and how animals were often kept inside the homes.
- I didn't know "running water" meant me running to the stream to get it.
 - Discuss the day-to-day chores of an Anglo-Saxon family grouping them according to the male tasks, the female tasks, and those of the children in the home.

Online resources

[General Anglo-Saxon History](#)

[Information with links about Anglo-Saxon England](#)

[Anglo-Saxon Society](#)

[Life in England Before 1066](#)

[Written and Spoken Old English](#)

[Anglo-Saxon Clothing](#)

[Anglo-Saxon Currency](#)

[Anglo-Saxon Crime and Punishment](#)

[Anglo-Saxon Diet](#)

[Anglo-Saxon Farming](#)

[Anglo-Saxon Daily Life](#)



