

We know almost nothing about the daily lives of ordinary Anglo-Saxon women. They would have worked on the land and looked after their families. We do, however, know about a number of important Anglo-Saxon women from books that were written at the time. Their lives were different as they were noble-women or nuns in large nunneries (monasteries for women only) or from royal families.



Hild of Whitby and Æthelflæd are two important women from this time. Read more about them in the text below and using the links provided, and then write some key facts for either woman on the template.

Æthelflæd

Æthelflæd was the eldest child of Alfred the Great and his wife Ealhswith. She was born in 870. She married the powerful ruler of Mercia, Æthelred, and supported his battles against the Vikings. Together they made the city of Worcester strong and safe and had a new church built in Gloucester. When Æthelred died, **Æthelflæd** ruled as Lady of the Mercians - a unique situation for a woman at this time. With her brother Edward they built defences in many towns and fought the Vikings to conquer the Danelaw (part of the country ruled by Vikings). **Æthelflæd** was skilled at negotiating (resolving situations through discussion). This was called peace-weaving. She, died in 918, aged 48 at Tamworth (near Birmingham) and was taken 75 miles to be buried in Gloucester. **Æthelflæd** was described by writers of the time as strategic, triumphant and powerful.

For more about **Æthelflæd** visit <https://www.bl.uk/people/aethelflaed>



Hild of Whitby

Hild or Hilda was born about 614. She was a member of the royal family that lived in this part of England. Her father's uncle was ruler of the Deiran kingdom. **Hild** had a very strong Christian faith. She was described by the writer Bede as having great energy, was very wise and a skilled teacher. **Hild** founded (set up) one of the most important buildings of the Anglo-Saxon age - the monastery of Whitby. Whitby is in the North-East of England. In her monastery it was said that *no-one was rich and no-one was poor, for they all had things in common*. **Hild** died in 680 aged 66 - she had been ill for many years. A number of legends were told about her after her death. A nun said she had seen **Hild** taken to heaven by angels. Another story tells of her turning a plague of snakes to stone. She was made a Christian saint after her death. St **Hild** is the saint of learning, culture and poetry.

For more about **Hild** visit <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/whitby-abbey/history-and-stories/st-hild/>



I have chosen to write about:

Born:

Died:

She was aged _____ when she died

Here are some facts about her:

I have liked learning about her because:

Here is a picture of an event from her life:



The Anglo-Saxon word Æthel means 'noble'.
What is your 'noble' name?!

My name is: Æthel_____

