

Anglo Saxon place names

Names that tell the tribes

The first Anglo Saxon Villages were often named after the Chieftain (Leader of the village). This made it clear which tribe the village belonged to. These places often have the letters 'ing' or 'folk' somewhere in their name, often at the end. The first part of the name was most likely to have been the name of the local chieftain.

The people who lived in the 'village' of Hastings were 'Haesta's people'.

Haesta was the chieftain.

The people who lived in the 'village' of Reading were 'Redda's people'.

Redda was the chieftain.

Names that tell the Landscape

Later Anglo Saxon villages were named after a feature in their surroundings rather than the name of the chieftain.

Oxford got its name because it was a place where oxen were driven across a ford in a river.

Bacup emerged as a settlement following the Anglo-Saxon settlement of Britain in the Early Middle Ages. For centuries, it was a small and obscure centre of domestic flannel and woollen cloth production, and many of the original weavers' cottages survive today as listed buildings.

Accrington may mean *acorn farmstead* from Anglo-Saxon *æcern* meaning *acorn* and *tun* meaning *farmstead* or *village*



Chorley comes from two Anglo-Saxon words, Ceorl and ley. Ceorl (Chor) meaning peasant or poor people and ley meaning pasture land. So, Chor and ley became Chorley - a place where farming people lived.

Anglo Saxon Word	Meaning	Examples of place name
barrow	wood	Barrow-in-Furness
bury	fortified place	Bury
ford	shallow river crossing	Barrowford
ham	village	Birmingham
hamm (a different way of spelling of ham)	enclosure within the bend of a river'	Padiham
Hurst	wooden hill	Stonyhurst
leigh / lee / ley	forest clearing	Chorley
mer /mar /mere	lake	Windermere
Ney	island	Walney Island
Port	market town	Southport
stead /sted	place	Stackstead
stow / stowe	meeting place holy place	Stowmarket Padstow
ton / tun	enclosed village / farmstead / manor	Accrington



wick / wich

Produce of a farm

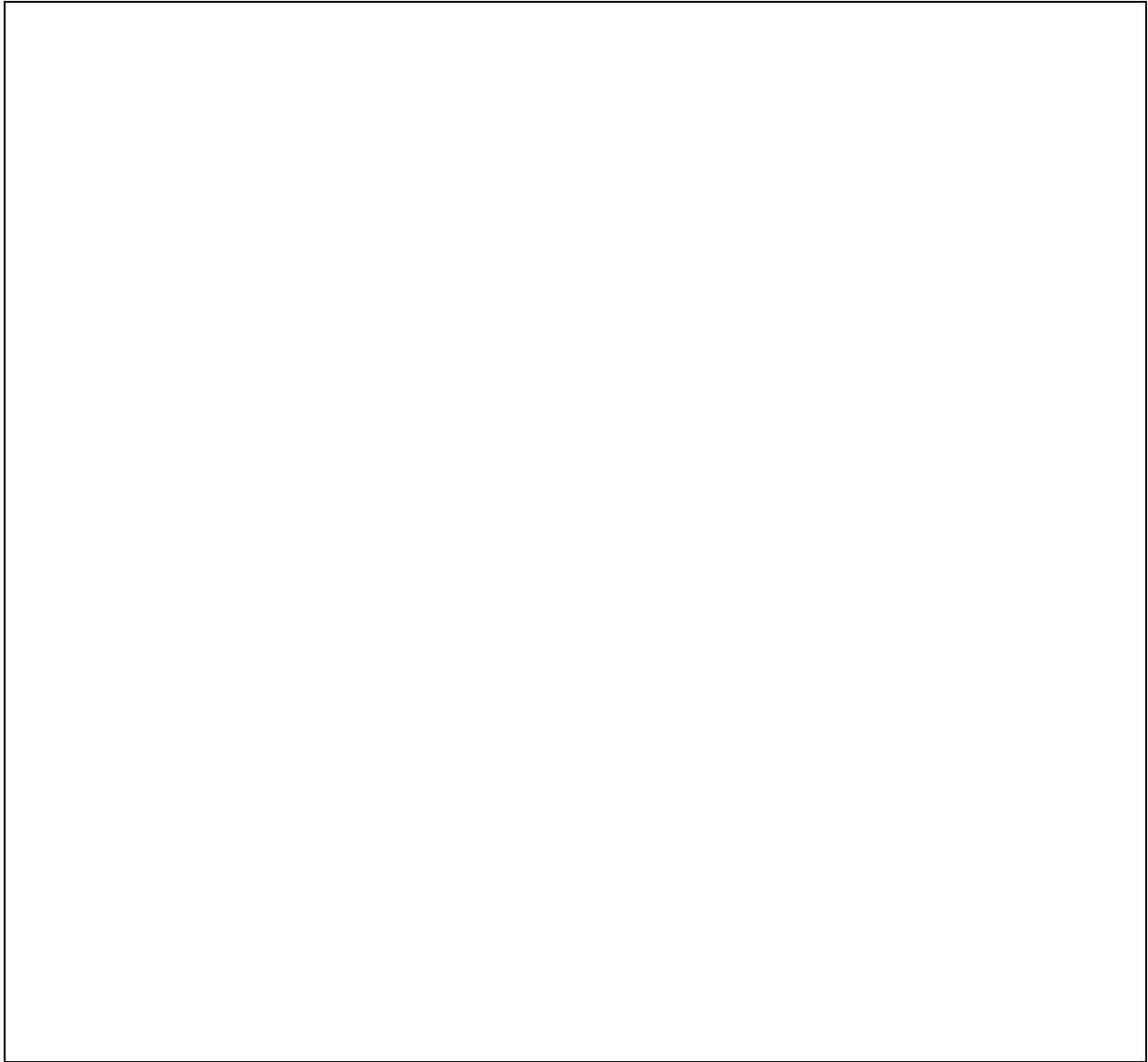
Barnoldswick

Activity

If you were a chieftain what would the name of your village be?

Draw a picture of your village. Is it surrounded by a hedge or is there a forest nearby? Is it near water and does it have a bridge or ford? It might have fields for farming.





Ethnic Minority Gypsy Roma Traveller Achievement

