name: class: date:

Anglo-Saxon Art and Pagan Symbols

1. Fill in the gaps with the right words!
2. Scan the QR code to check your answers interactively!
3. Copy the text in your exercise book!
4. Formulate the content of the text yourself!
   Use all gap words!

Anglo-Saxon art is renowned for its intricate designs and symbolic meanings. During the early medieval period, the _____ were influenced by various cultures, including the Romans and Germanic tribes. Their artwork often featured animals, geometric patterns, and _____ symbols. One of the most common motifs was the _____, a complex pattern of woven lines symbolizing eternity or continuity. Among these symbols, the _____, or Tree of Life, stood out. This tree represented the interconnectedness of all things in the Norse cosmology. Another significant symbol was the _____, composed of three interlocking triangles. It was associated with Odin, the god of war and wisdom, and often interpreted as a symbol of fate or the afterlife.

The _____ artists also used the swastika, originally a symbol of good fortune and the sun. This symbol, with its right-angled arms, was common in many ancient cultures before its later, more infamous use. The _____, or Mjölnir, was another popular emblem, representing protection and strength, often worn as an amulet.

Animal motifs were also prevalent, with the _____ and dragon being particularly significant. These creatures symbolized protection and were thought to ward off evil spirits. The _____, a symbol of power and nobility, was another common motif.

Intriguingly, some Anglo-Saxon art contained hidden or esoteric symbols. For instance, certain patterns were believed to hold _____ properties and were used in ceremonies or as talismans. Artisans also incorporated Christian symbols, like the cross, blending pagan and Christian traditions in a unique syncretism.

This art form not only reflects the _____ and beliefs of the Anglo-Saxons but also offers insight into their daily lives and spiritual practices. Their use of symbols provided a means to express their understanding of the world and their place in it.

Thors Hammer	pagan	serpent	Valknut	culture	Yggdrasil	interlace
magical	Anglo-Saxons	Saxon	eagle			

Reference: https://materials.school/educational-activities/task-collection/art-and-culture/anglo-saxon-art-and-pagan-symbols (created with ChatGPT)