



# Can you solve the mystery of the Staffordshire Hoard?

**Lots of people have come up with theories about the Hoard since it was discovered in 2009.**

However, unlike you, not all of them are experts on the Hoard, and have not painstakingly researched this mystery!

Below are a number of different theories that archaeologists and historians have come up with explaining why the Hoard came to be buried.

**Theory A** It was a grave.

**Theory B** It was buried for religious reasons.

**Theory C** The artefacts were hidden there for safe keeping when enemies attacked and for some reason were never recovered.

**Theory D** The artefacts had been looted by the Mercian Kings during their wars with Northumbria or East Anglia.

**Theory E** It was buried to identify an important place.

**Theory F** The artefacts were a payment to soldiers in return for their support in battle.

## Which of these theories is the most convincing in your opinion?

Use your knowledge and understanding of the Hoard and Anglo-Saxon England to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each of the theories. Remember to refer to the other sources you have researched.

Having evaluated each of the theories you now have to decide in your groups which of the theories you find most convincing and explain why.

**Don't forget that you could link several theories together to form your own theory!**