

VOCABULARY

Anglo-Saxon the name given to the groups of people who travelled from Germany and South Denmark and settled in Britain from around AD 410

Angles people from modern day Denmark who invaded Britain around AD 410

Saxons people from northern and central Germany who invaded Britain around AD 410

Picts ancient tribes who lived in northern Scotland who were 'foul' and had a 'lust for blood'.

Romans The Romans invaded and settled in Britain for over 400 years, starting with their first successful raid in 54 BC.

Celts Original inhabitants of Britain, living here since before the Roman invasion.

Scots people from Ireland who eventually settled in Scotland

invasion to try and take over a place by force

migration movement from one place to another in order to settle there

artefact an object from the past that shows evidence of what life was like

Christianity the religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ

Pagan A religion that involves worshipping many gods and goddesses.

settler/settlement people who migrate to a new place. When people start a community, this is a settlement

Kingdom An area of land ruled by a particular King or Queen.

HISTORY KNOWLEDGE MAT



Anglo Saxons, Picts and Scots



IMPORTANT SOURCES

Sutton Hoo is the site of two Anglo-Saxon cemeteries dating from the 6th to 7th centuries. Archaeologists have been excavating the area since 1938, when a previously undisturbed ship burial containing many Anglo-Saxon artefacts was discovered. The site has provided lots of important artefacts that have helped us learn more about the Anglo-Saxon period.



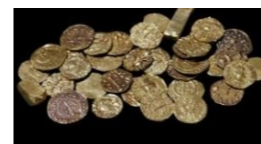
Helmet



Gold belt buckle



Shield



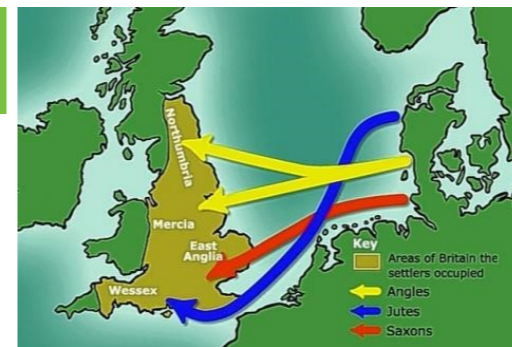
Gold coins



Whetstone

Why did the Anglo-Saxons come to Britain?

- To fight
- To farm
- To make new homes
- They were invited



Timeline

396 - 398	410	497	575	586	597	757	793	871	1016	1066
Picts, Scots and Saxons raid Roman Britain.	Romans left Britain leaving it un-guarded	The kingdom of Wessex is formed	The kingdom of East Anglia was formed	The Kingdom of Mercia is formed	St Augustine introduces Christianity	Offa King of Mercia declares himself King of England	Vikings attack Lindisfarne	Alfred the Great rules	Canute the Great rules as first Viking	Battle of Hastings Normans defeat the Saxons

KEY LEARNING

Who were the Anglo-Saxons and where did they come from?

The Romans left Britain in 410. This left the British Isles vulnerable to attackers. The Anglo-Saxons came from Denmark, Netherlands and northern Germany across the North Sea in wooden boats. They were not one group. They were several tribes such as the Angles, Saxons and Jutes, from different places. The various Anglo-Saxon groups attacked separately and settled in different areas of the country. They formed several kingdoms, often changing, and constantly at war with one another. The Celtic areas of Britain regarded the Anglo-Saxons as enemies. The Anglo-Saxons failed to conquer some areas of the British Isles such as Scotland and Wales.



Above is a map of Anglo Saxon Kingdoms 650—800 AD. This shows the different kingdoms and the areas still controlled by the Celts.

KEY LEARNING continued

Attacks on the Anglo-Saxons

The Anglo-Saxons were under constant attack from **Vikings** who travelled from Scandinavia and invaded towns and villages in Wales, Scotland, England and the Isle of Man, finally conquering York (Jorvik) in 866. They finally defeated the Anglo-Saxons as the Normans (Norsemen) from Normandy (France) invaded and won the Battle of Hastings in 1066. The Normans in France were originally Vikings from Scandinavia!

The **Celts** and the **Anglo-Saxons** were also attacked by the **Scots** (originally from Ireland) and the **Picts** (living in Scotland).



This map shows areas controlled by the different groups. The green names show areas that the Scots controlled, the black shows areas that the Celts controlled, the blue shows areas under Pict control, and the other colours show the various Anglo-Saxon groups.

Anglo Saxon Beliefs

The Anglo-Saxons were originally **Pagans** who **believed in many gods** and had many superstitions. The king of the Anglo-Saxon gods was Woden. Other gods were Thunor, god of thunder; Frige, goddess of love; and Tiw, god of war. These four Anglo-Saxon gods gave their names to the days of the week. Tiw became Tuesday, Woden - Wednesday, Thunor - Thursday and Frige - Friday. Anglo-Saxons were superstitious and believed in lucky charms. They thought that rhymes, potions, stones and jewels would protect them from evil spirits or sickness.

At the end of the Sixth Century, people came over from Ireland and Rome to convince people to follow **Christianity** instead of Pagan beliefs. They converted some of the rulers of some Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. This move to Christianity had a massive impact on Anglo-Saxon society. With this religion arrived literacy and the writing of books and documents. The majority of the manuscripts which survive from this period were made by churchmen and women, and they were kept in the libraries of monasteries and cathedrals.



Fragments of Christian Gospels that have survived from the 7th Century.

Anglo Saxon Settlements

Most Anglo-Saxon settlements were simple farming communities. Unlike the Roman cities that preceded them, they were usually made up of a smaller collection of houses. These houses were made of materials such as wattle and daub (mud and sticks) and wood.



Richer Saxons might have lived in palaces made out of wood, or later on in the era, sometimes stone. Special buildings such as churches might also have been made of stone later on in the Anglo-Saxon period.



This church was built in 681 AD. Some parts have been rebuilt but there are still some parts that were built by the Saxons, including this stained glass window!

Links to previous and future learning

EYFS	Year 1	Year 4	Future learning—
Once Upon a Time	Castles—Powerful Homes of the Past	Roman Empire in Britain	Year 5—Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle