

KEY LEARNING

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

The Romans left Britain in 410AD, leaving the Celts, Picts and Scots. This left the British Isles vulnerable to attackers.

The Anglo-Saxons came from Denmark, Netherlands and 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 Anglo-Saxon groups attacked separately and settled in different areas of Britain. They formed several kingdoms, often changing, and were 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.



A map of Anglo Saxon Kingdoms 650–800 AD. This shows the different kingdoms and the areas still controlled by the Celts.

HISTORY KNOWLEDGE MAT

Anglo Saxons, Picts and Scots

IMPORTANT PRIMARY SOURCE

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

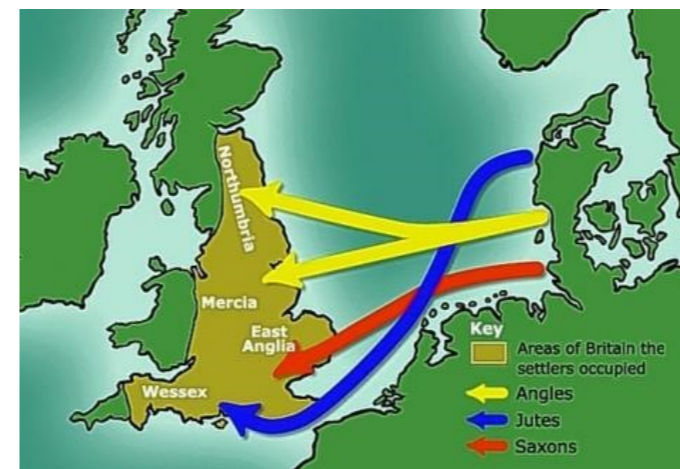


Gold coins

Why did the Anglo-Saxons come to Britain?

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

Key Question : Were they invaders or settlers?



KEY LEARNING

Attacks on the Anglo-Saxons

The Celts and the Anglo-Saxons were 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.



Timeline

396 - 398	410	497	575	586	597	757	871 - 899	1016	1066
Picts, Scots and Saxons raid Roman Britain.	Romans leave Britain leaving it unguarded	The kingdom of Wessex is formed	The kingdom of East Anglia is formed	The Kingdom of Mercia is formed	St Augustine introduces Christianity	Offa King of Mercia declares himself King of England	Alfred the Great rules	Canute the Great rules as first Viking	Battle of Hastings Normans defeat the Saxons

Anglo Saxon Beliefs and Religion

The Anglo-Saxons were **Pagans** who **believed in many gods** and had many superstitions.

These four Anglo-Saxon gods gave their names to the days of the week.

- Woden, king of the gods (Wednesday)
- Thunor / Thor, god of thunder (Thursday)
- Frige, goddess of love (Friday)
- Tiw, god of war (Tuesday)



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 had a massive impact on Anglo-Saxon society. With this religion arrived literacy and the writing of books and documents. The documents that still exist are primary sources which tell us about what happened at the time. They were kept in the libraries of monasteries and cathedrals.

Anglo Saxon Settlements

Most Anglo-Saxon settlements were simple farming communities. Unlike the Roman cities, 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.

Primary Source

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



VOCABULARY

Invasion	The attempt to try and take over a place by force	
Invader	A person or group who	
Settler	people who migrate to a new place.	
Settlement	When people start a community, this is a settlement	
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	
Kingdom	An area of land ruled by a particular King or Queen.	
Primary source	Provides original information on an event, topic or era	
Polytheists	the worship of or belief in more than one god	
Pagan	A religion that involves worshipping many gods and goddesses.	
To convert	to change their belief (often religion)	
Superstition	a belief that is not based on reason or scientific thinking	



St King Alfred the Great (Lived 849-899, Ruled 871—899)

He fought the Vikings and defeated them in the Battle of Edington (878).

He then made an agreement with them (Danelaw) which created peace and land ownership rules.

He was a very well-educated man who improved the standard of living for the people. He helped people learn the English language and translated Latin texts into English, making sure more people could understand the legacy of the Romans.

He also improved the legal and military systems.

Links to previous and future learning

KS1	Year 3	Year 4	Future learning
Castles, Monarchs United Kingdom	Shang Dynasty Going Underground	Ancient Greece Roman Empire in Britain	Vikings and Anglo-Saxon struggle