

Year 4
Geography Knowledge Organiser for Ancient Britain

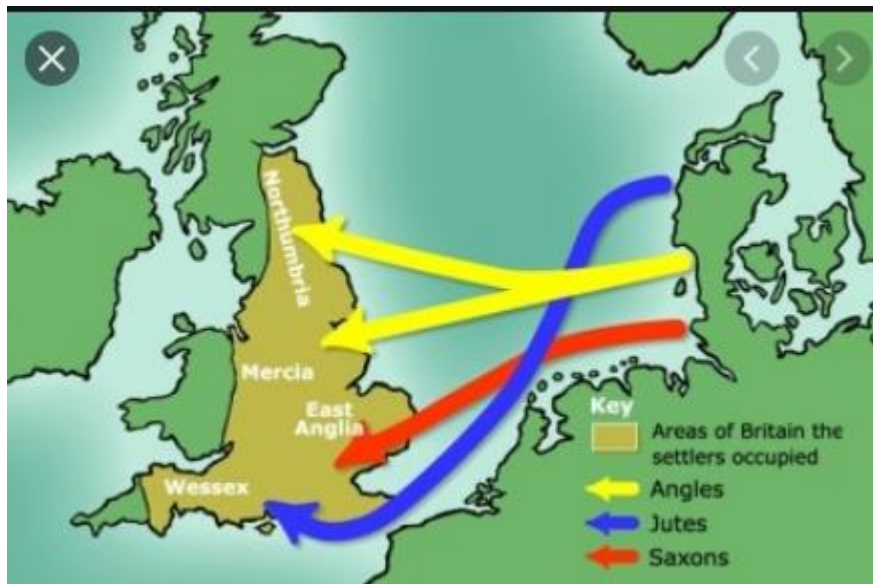
Key Enquiry Questions:	
Where did the Anglo-Saxons come from and where did they settle?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They were a mix of tribes from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. The three biggest were the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes. The land they settled in was 'Angle-land', or England. • If we use the modern names for the countries they came from, the Saxons were German-Dutch, the Angles were southern Danish, and the Jutes were northern Danish. • The rest of Britain divided into seven kingdoms: Northumbria, Essex, Wessex, Sussex, Mercia, Kent, East Anglia.
How did Anglo-Saxons live, trade and distribute resources?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men cut down trees to clear land for ploughing and to sow crops. Farmers used oxen to pull ploughs up and down long strip fields. Children with dogs herded cattle and sheep. They also kept a lookout for wolves - which still lived in Britain at this time. • The Anglo-Saxons were great craftsmen too. Metalworkers made iron tools, knives and swords. Woodworkers made wooden bowls, furniture, carts and wheels. Potters made pottery from clay. Jewellers made beautiful brooches, beads and ornaments from gold, gemstones and glass. • The Anglo-Saxons had armies too. But their soldiers didn't fight all the time. After a battle they went home as soon as they could and looked after their animals and crops. • Trade was an important part of life. If a farmer had a surplus of livestock or produce, he would take it to the nearest market and exchange it for any one of the many things that would be needed around the farm: iron, salt, lead, hone and building stone, wine, fish, flax, antler, etc. • All trade needs an outlet, and this would have been in the markets of the burhs. Everyone visited a burgh at some time, usually to dispose of excess grain, livestock or dairy produce. By choosing his route carefully a merchant could be in a different burgh every few days. Most markets were set up by the king or eorl in whose lands the burgh lay, and there was usually some form of tax on the merchants' transactions. • In addition to raw materials there were also finished goods, though these tended to be small items: for example jewellery, glassware, and weapons. These would end up in the homes of thanes and eorls who could afford them. We must also remember the smaller trade in finished goods such as pottery and woodcraft.
Where did the Vikings come from and where did they settle?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vikings travelled from Scandinavia to Britain. They mostly settled in the Danelaw, to the north and east of England. • Some Norwegian Vikings or 'Norse' sailed to Scotland. They made settlements in the north, and on the Shetland and Orkney Islands. • Vikings also settled on the Isle of Man and often raided Wales, but few made homes there. In Ireland, the Vikings founded the city of Dublin. • The people of Britain called the invaders 'Danes', but they came from Norway and Sweden as well as Denmark.
How did Vikings live, trade and distribute resources?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Danelaw covered an area east of their line joining London and Chester. Everything to the east belonged to the Vikings. • There were three main areas where Vikings lived - Northumbria (which included modern-day Yorkshire), East Anglia, and the Five Boroughs. A borough was a town and the five towns were Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Stamford and Lincoln. • Viking families came to settle on these lands. Good farmland was scarce in the Vikings' own countries, and they were looking for a better life. • The most important city in the Danelaw was the city of York, or 'Jorvik' (pronounced 'your-vick'), as the Vikings knew it. Over 10,000 people lived there and it was an important place to trade goods.

Key Vocabulary	
continent	A large area of land; a group of countries.
trade	The action of buying and selling goods and services.
settlement	A place where people establish a community.
merchant	A person involved in wholesale trade.
burgh	A borough or chartered town.
tax	A compulsory contribution to the state which is added to the cost of some goods, services, and transactions.
thanes	(In Anglo-Saxon England) A man who held land granted by the king or by a military nobleman.
ceorls	(In Anglo-Saxon England) A freeman of the lowest class, ranking directly below a thane.

Key Facts:	
Danelaw	The areas the Viking settled in were known as Danelaw. It covered an area roughly east of a line on a map joining London and Chester. The Saxons lived south of the line.
Vikings traders	Traders made long journeys overland through Russia, reaching as far south as Constantinople in modern-day Turkey. Some merchants travelled further east to Baghdad in Iraq. The Vikings traded all over Europe and as far east as Central Asia. They bought goods and materials such as silver, silk, spices, wine, jewellery, glass and pottery. In return, they sold items like honey, tin, wheat, wool, wood, iron, fur, leather, fish and walrus ivory. Everywhere they went, the Vikings bought and sold slaves too. Viking traders carried a set of folding scales which they used to weigh coins to make sure they got a fair deal. https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-ks3-viking-trade/z4b9jhy
Lindisfarne	The first place the Vikings raided in Britain was the monastery at Lindisfarne, a small holy island located off the northeast coast of England.
Cities in England conquered by the Vikings	In England, the Vikings took over Northumbria, East Anglia and parts of Mercia. In 866 they captured modern York (Viking name: Jorvik) and made it their capital. They continued to press south and west.
sun compass	The Vikings invented a kind of sun compass to help find their way. At night they watched the skies and could use the position of the stars to determine which direction they were heading. Out of sight of land, they looked for the sun: west (towards the sunset) meant they were headed for England; east (towards the sunrise) meant home to Denmark or Norway.
The Scots	The Gaelic speaking Scotti who came from Ireland were descendants of the Picts who had earlier invaded Ireland, around 200AD. Historians believe that these Irish Scots invaded and claimed land in Scotland in the 4th and 5th centuries.



This is the kind of balance scale a Viking trader used. They put the little weights in one pan and the silver in the other.



Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms

The British fought hard against the Anglo-Saxons but by about 600AD they had either been forced to escape or had been taken as slaves.

Those who escaped retreated mainly to Wales and Cornwall. The rest of Britain divided into seven kingdoms:

1. Northumbria
2. Essex
3. Wessex
4. Sussex
5. Mercia
6. Kent
7. East Anglia

A map of Britain showing the seven Anglo-Saxon kingdoms: Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Essex, Kent, Wessex, and Sussex. The map also shows 'British held territory' in green, primarily in the west and south of the kingdoms.