

Year 4
History Knowledge Organiser for Anglo Saxons

| Key Enquiry Questions: | |
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| Why did the Anglo Saxons invade England? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historians are not sure why the Anglo Saxons came to Britain. • Some say that the Saxons were invited to come to England to help to keep invaders from Scotland and Ireland out. • Additionally, their lands often flooded and it was difficult to grow crops so they were looking for somewhere to farm and settle. • Vortigern invited the Saxons as, following the departure of the Romans, they were coming under attack from the Celts. • He hired them as mercenaries but they rebelled and formed their own kingdom. |
| When did Christianity come to Anglo Saxon England? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 1400 years ago, the Pope in Rome sent a message to England to persuade the Anglo-Saxons to become Christian. • The Augustine landed in the South and converted King Ethelbert of Kent and his people. • He built a church and Christianity then spread to other parts of Britain. |

| Key Vocabulary | |
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| Angles | People from Germany who invaded Britain around AD 410. |
| Anglo-Saxons | The name given to the people who travelled from Germany and South Denmark and settled in Britain around AD 410. |
| burh (burgh) | A well-defended Saxon town. |
| christianity | A religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. |
| cyning | Anglo-Saxon for "king". Each king ruled a kingdom and led a small army. |
| Hoard | Items buried and left, possibly for safekeeping. |
| interpretation | One person's view of an event in history. |
| inference | An inference is an idea or conclusion that is drawn from evidence and reasoning. It is the process of inferring things based on what is already known. |
| invasion | Attacking and conquering another country. |
| Jutes | People from the Jutland peninsula (Germany and Southern Denmark) who invaded Britain around AD 410. |
| lyre | A small harp played at feasts. |
| martyr | Someone who dies for what they believe in. |
| missionary | A person who goes to a different country to spread a religion, usually Christianity. |
| paganism | The religion of the early Anglo-Saxon people was Paganism. Paganism is a polytheistic religion, which means many gods are worshipped. Key Anglo-Saxon gods included: Woden, Frigg, Thunor and Tiw. |
| Picts | Ancient tribes who lived in northern Scotland. |
| polytheistic | A religion where many gods are worshipped. |
| primary evidence | A primary source is an artefact, a document, a recording, or any other source of information that was created at the time under study. It provides first hand or direct evidence. For this period, this would include The Lindisfarne Gospels and the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles. |
| secondary evidence | A secondary source is any source about an event, period, or issue in history that was produced after that event or period has passed. These are usually textbooks, written by an expert. |
| scops | Travelling storytellers. |
| Scots | People from Ireland who eventually settled in Scotland . |
| thane | After kings, the most powerful Anglo-Saxons were the thanes. A thane was in charge of a village. |

| Key Facts: | |
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| 410 AD | Roman rule in Britain ends. The Romans withdraw from Britain. |
| 430 AD | The Picts start to attack England from North of Hadrian's Wall. |
| 450 AD | Angles and Saxons invade. German Saxons settle in Kent. |
| 596 AD | St Augustine is sent to Kent by Pope Gregory the Great to convert the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity. |
| 635 AD | Lindisfarne Monastery is founded by St. Aiden. |
| 787 AD | First Viking raid is recorded by the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. |
| 793 AD | Lindisfarne (Viking raid). |
| 867-878 AD | Series of Viking victories. |
| 886 AD | Viking and Alfred divide England. |
| 899 AD | King Alfred dies. |
| 1066 AD | Battle of Hastings. |
| 3 | The number of main immigrant peoples who became known as the Anglo-Saxons: The Angles, The Saxons and The Jutes. |

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| 7 | The number of Anglo-Saxon kingdoms established: Northumbria, East Anglia, Essex, Sussex, Kent, Wessex and Mercia. |
| Sutton Hoo | This is the burial ground of King Raedwald in Suffolk, discovered in 1939. |
| Lindisfarne | Also known as Holy Island, it is situated off the Northumberland coast and was the holiest site of Anglo-Saxon England. |
| Canterbury Cathedral | It was founded by St Augustine in 597 AD. |
| Vortigern | British king left in charge after the Romans left. |
| Alfred the Great | King who stopped the Vikings taking control of Britain 886 AD. |
| St Augustine | Sent as a missionary to convert England to Christianity 597 AD. |
| King Offa | King of Mercia from AD 757 – AD 796' One of the most famous Anglo-Saxon Kings, who made the first pennies. |
| King Harold | Died during the Battle of Hastings in 1066 following the death of King Edward the Conqueror in January 1066. |
| Bede | A monk in a Northumbrian monastery who wrote a history of the English church and people during Anglo-Saxon times. |

7 Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms

England
c. 700

The Heptarchy:

- Northumbria
- Mercia
- East Anglia
- Essex
- Wessex
- Kent
- Sussex



Additional Websites:

www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/2xsbcdm

www.natgeokinds.com/uk/discover/history/general-history/anglo-saxons