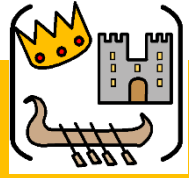


Year 4



Anglo Saxons - Knowledge Organiser

Did the settlement by the Anglo Saxons make England a better or worse place to live?

Key Vocabulary

Vocabulary (and definition) should be taken from vocabulary

Vocabulary: definition

Angles member of a Germanic people, which, together with the Jutes, Saxons, and probably the Frisians, invaded the island of Britain in the 5th century

Saxons members that inhabited parts of central and northern Germany from Roman times, many of whom conquered and settled in much of southern England in the 5th-6th centuries.

Jutes a member of a Germanic people that (according to Bede) joined the Angles and Saxons in invading Britain in the 5th century, settling in a region including Kent and the Isle of Wight

Mead the drink of kings and thanes, made of water and honey, malt, and yeast

Wattle and daub-Wattle-and-daub is made by weaving together small wooden branches to create a wall. Mud, straw, horsehair and cow or horse dung is mixed together and then smeared on the walls.

Thatch Thatching is the craft of building a roof with dry vegetation such as straw, water reed, sedge, rushes, heather, or palm branches,

Key Questions and Facts

What happened during the period of Saxon England?

The Anglo-Saxon period in Britain spans approximately the six centuries from 410-1066AD. The Anglo-Saxons first tried invading in the 4th century, but the Roman army were quick to send them home again! Years later - around 450AD - the Ancient Romans left Britain, the Anglo-Saxons seized their chance and this time they were successful! They left their homes in Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark and sailed over to Britain on wooden boats. Many of them were farmers before they came to Britain and it's thought they were on the look-out for new land as floodwaters back home had made it almost impossible to farm.

Why was King Offa of Mercia a significant individual during the period?

A member of an ancient Mercian ruling family, Offa seized power in the civil war that followed the murder of his cousin, King Aethelbald (reigned 716-757). By ruthlessly suppressing resistance from several small kingdoms in and around Mercia, he created a single state covering most of England south of modern Yorkshire.

What was life like during the Anglo Saxon period? (Primary sources)

Most Anglo-Saxons were farmers and lived off the land. They were able to make equipment such as ploughs and tools to help them in their work. They would grind wheat to make flour so they could make bread. Some Anglo-Saxons were skilled craftsmen who made decorative jewellery such as brooches and necklaces.

What was life like during the Anglo Saxon period? (Secondary sources)

Life for people in Anglo-Saxon England was very much dependent on their position in society. It was made up of three main groups: Thaners - the Saxon upper class Churls - some were quite well off but others very poor Thralls - a class of slaves People tended to live in small village groups but this changed over the period. Kinship (family ties) was very important to the Saxons and they believed in avenging wrongs done to the family.

How did Saxon life compare to that of Roman Britain

Roman Britain was mainly Latin in nature, while Anglo-Saxon Britain was mainly Germanic in nature. Roman Britain had been part of a centralised Empire, with central government whereas the early Anglo Saxons depended upon their tribal structure for law and order. Roman Britain was run by a bureaucracy, there were no officials and no bureaucracy in the life of early Anglo Saxons. In Roman Britain large scales of farming and forestry were carried on but the Saxons only had small family farms. In Roman Britain high status buildings could be built of stone, brick or concrete however the Saxons depended upon their wood-work skills.

layering the vegetation so as to shed water away from the inner roof.

Farmer-warrior - These skilled warriors were farmers from foreign lands.

Staffordshire hoard The largest hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold ever found.

Lindisfame Possibly the holiest site of Anglo-Saxon England, Lindisfame was founded by St. Aidan, an Irish monk, who came from Iona, the centre of Christianity in Scotland.

Hengest and Horsa - Hengist and Horsa are Germanic brothers said to have led the Angles, Saxons and Jutes in their invasion of Britain in the 5th century.

Manuscript- a book, document, or piece of music written by hand rather than typed or printed

Wergild- is the value set in Anglo-Saxon and Germanic law upon human life in accordance with rank

Athelstan king of Wessex and Mercia (924–939 ad), who extended his kingdom to include most of England.

Augustine of Canterbury was a monk who became the first Archbishop of Canterbury in the year 597 and a school was founded to train Anglo-Saxon priests and missionaries.

Alfred the great Alfred the Great was King of the West Saxons from 871 to c. 886 and King of the Anglo-Saxons from c. 886 until his death in 899.

King offa of Mercia- Offa was King of Mercia, a kingdom of Anglo-Saxon England, from 757 until his death.

This period is known as the dark ages and one of the aspects which makes it 'dark' are the lack of primary written sources. There was no unifying monarch (king/emperor etc) and the kingdoms fought against each other. This settled into what is commonly known as the heptarchy. This lesson focuses on a couple of key individuals that are significant during this time period for different reasons that reveal aspects of this period that assist children in answering the enquiry question.

Significant Individuals



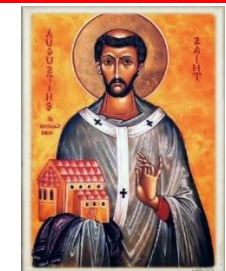
Alfred the Great

Alfred the Great - Alfred the Great was King of the West Saxons from 871 to c. 886 and King of the Anglo-Saxons from c. 886 until his death in 899



King Offa of Mercia

Offa was King of Mercia, a kingdom of Anglo-Saxon England, from 757 until his death



Augustine of Canterbury

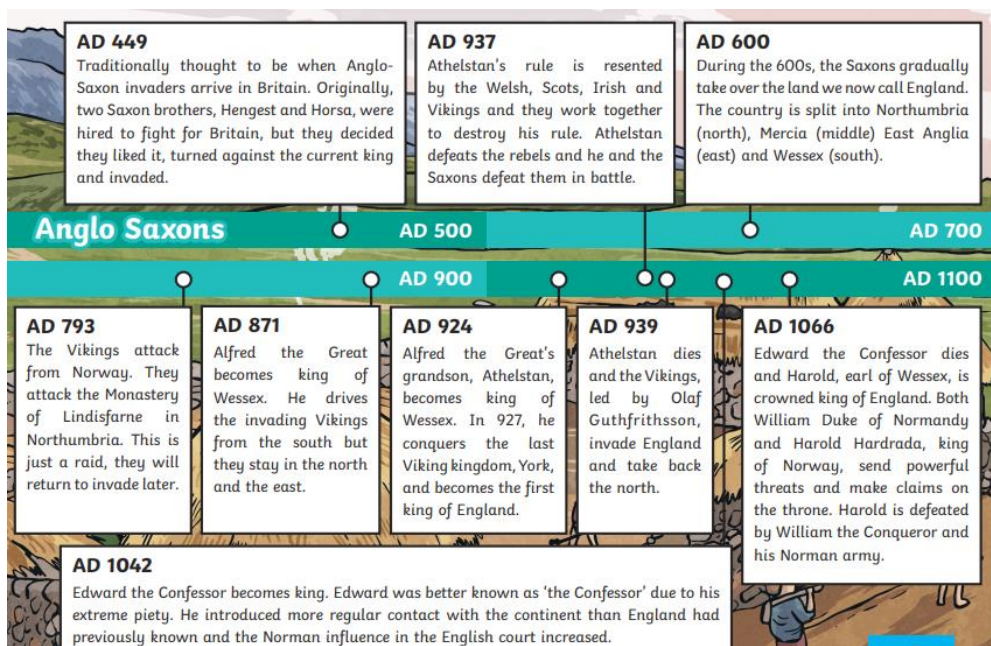
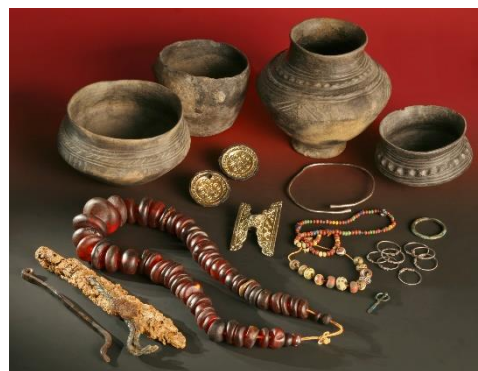
Augustine spent most of his life as a churchman in Italy. He was a monk, probably at the church of St Andrew on the Coelian Hill in Rome. In the late 590s, he was sent by Pope Gregory the Great (590–604) to the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Kent

By the end of the unit children should develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history, establishing clear narratives.

Address and sometimes devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference and significance.

Construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information.

Understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources. To identify and describe Anglo-Saxon artefacts.



The Anglo-Saxon period in Britain spans approximately the six centuries from 410-1066AD. The period used to be known as the Dark Ages, mainly because written sources for the early years of Saxon invasion are scarce. However, most historians now prefer the terms 'early middle ages' or 'early medieval period'.

Useful Websites

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxsbcdm>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxsbcdm/articles/zq2m6sg>

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/general-history/anglo-saxons/>

