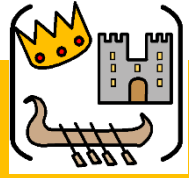


## Year 4



### Anglo Saxons - Knowledge Organiser

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

#### Key Vocabulary

**Angles** – a group of people who invaded the island of Britain in the 5th century  
**Saxons** a group of people who conquered and settled in much of southern England in the 5th–6th centuries.

**Jutes** a group of people who are believed to have joined the Angles and Saxons in invading Britain in the 5th century, settling in Kent and the Isle of Wight

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

**Thegn** a person of nobility who owned a plot of land

**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.

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

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

**Lindisfarne** Possibly the holiest site of Anglo-Saxon England, Lindisfarne 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.

#### Key Questions and Facts

##### What was life like during the Anglo Saxon period?

Most Anglo-Saxons were farmers. They grew their own crops, fruit and vegetables. 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.

Life for people in Anglo-Saxon England depended on their position in society. It was made up of three main groups:

**Thanes** – 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. Kinship (family ties) was very important to the Saxons and they believed in punishing wrongdoing.

##### What happened during the period of Saxon England?

The Anglo-Saxon was between 410 AD-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 floods had made it almost impossible to farm.

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

King Offa of Mercia was a member of an ancient Mercian ruling family. He gained power in the civil war after his cousin (King Aethelbald) was killed.

King Offa created a single state covering most of England. There are very few primary sources about King Offa's reign, so it is known as the 'dark ages'.

### Significant Individuals



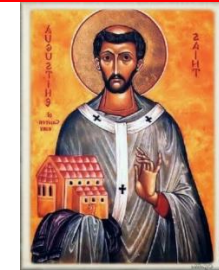
Alfred the Great

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

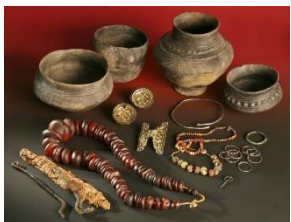
Augustine spent most of his life as a churchman in Italy. He was a monk, probably at the church of St Andrew on the Coelian Hill in Rome. In the late 590s, he was sent by Pope Gregory the Great (590-604) to the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Kent

### Primary Sources



Primary sources are original records and artefacts.

- Diaries
- Letters
- Artefacts
- Photographs



### Secondary Sources

Secondary sources are based on historian's viewpoints and ideas.

- Textbook
- Encyclopaedia
- Biography
- Journal articles

