

# Knowledge Organiser Year 4: History- The Anglo-Saxons & Scots

Pupils will learn about:

- The Scots' invasion from Ireland to northern Britain (now Scotland).
- Anglo-Saxon invasions – who was involved and how did they get here?
- Anglo-Saxon village life.
- What artefacts can tell us about Anglo-Saxons.
- Anglo-Saxon art and culture.
- Anglo-Saxon religion and conversion to Christianity.



## Timeline of Key Events

350 AD	Some arrivals from northern Europe
410 AD	Last Romans leave Britain
430 AD	First Christian Church in Britain is built in Whithorn, Scotland
450 AD	German Saxons settle in Kent
516 AD	Battle of Mount Badon
570 AD	The heptarchy (seven kingdoms of Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Essex, Sussex, Wessex, Kent) emerges in England
597 AD	St Augustine brings Christianity to England from Rome
600 AD	First law code written in English in Aethelbert's kingdom in Kent
613 AD	Northumbrian kings rule over most of England
731 AD	Bede completes ecclesiastical history
757 AD	Offa becomes king of Mercia and arguably first king of England
789 AD	First recorded Viking attack (Dorset)
793 AD	Viking attack on Lindisfarne

## Did you know...?

- Traditionally the Anglo Saxon period has been thought of as a series of invasions but historians now think that some settlements may have been actually quite peaceful.
- The English language has its roots in Old English which was spoken during the time of the Saxons. Many words we use today are based on Saxon original words, including the days of the week.
- Our modern counties are based on – sometimes identical to – old Saxon shires.
- Anglo-Saxons did not live in existing Roman settlements but rather developed their own more rural settlements.
- Offa's Dyke – a defensive ditch on the Welsh borders, still there today– is named after Offa, the king of Merica from 757 AD

## Key Figures

Vortigern	British king left in charge after the Romans left.
Hengest and Horsa	Brothers of Vortigern, from Denmark, who helped him fight the Picts and Scots and stayed in Britain because they liked it so much.
St. Augustine	Christian missionary considered to be responsible for the widespread adoption of the faith.
King Aethelbert	King of Kent who created the first Germanic law code in the early 7 <sup>th</sup> century.
King Offa	King of Merica, and most of England in the mid 8 <sup>th</sup> century.
King Arthur	Possibly mythical King of Wessex.
Bede	Monk in a Northumbrian monastery who wrote a history of the English church and people.

## Key Questions

- Where are English people from?
- Are all English people immigrants?
- Who was the first king of England?
- Was England always a Christian country?
- Why isn't England part of the Roman Empire today?
- Who wrote the history of the Anglo Saxons?
- Who was buried at Sutton Hoo?
- Was King Arthur real?

Key Vocabulary			
Scots	The Gaelic speaking Scotti came from Ireland and were descendants of the Picts.	Picts	People who lived in Scotland at the time of Roman Britain.
Saxons	Germanic tribe living near the North Sea coast of what is now Germany. They settled in Essex (East Saxons), Sussex (South Saxons), Middlesex (Middle Saxons) and Wessex (West Saxons).	Jutes	One of the three most powerful Germanic peoples of their time in the Nordic Iron Age, the other two being the Saxons and Angles. They settled mainly in Kent.
Franks	A collection of Germanic peoples, associated with tribes on the Lower and Middle Rhine in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD.	Frisians	A Germanic ethnic group from the coastal parts of the Netherlands and north western Germany.
Angles	Germanic invading tribe, they founded several kingdoms of England and their name is the root of the word England. They settled mainly in East Anglia.	Germanic	Used to describe the ancient culture and language of the peoples of northern Europe.
_ham	Place names ending in this mean village e.g. Aylsham, North Walsham.	_ford	Places ending in this mean a shallow river crossing, e.g. Hainford, Horsford.
_worth	Place names with this means enclosure, e.g. Ranworth.	_ley	Place names ending in this mean a forest clearing, e.g. Mundesley.
_wich	Place names ending in this mean a settlement with lots of activity linked with the trade of local crafts and farm produce, e.g. Norwich.	_ton	Place names ending in this mean an enclosed village, farmstead/manor, e.g. West Runton, Hoveton.
_bury	Place names ending in this mean a fortified place e.g. Bury St. Edmunds.	Vikings	People from Scandinavia who were fighters, sea-travellers, traders and farmers.
brooch	Ornament used to fasten clothing.	charm	A magical object or words, to protect a person from harm.
conquer	To beat an enemy and control them using force.	invaders	People who attack and try to take over land from other people.
lyre	A small harp played at Anglo-Saxon feasts.	monastery	The building where monks live.
monk	A male member of a religious group, living, praying and working together and following a set of rules.	nun	A female member of a religious group, living, praying and working together and following a set of rules.
raider	An enemy who attacks and then goes away.	runes	The letters of the Anglo-Saxon alphabet.
settlement	A place where people make their homes.	thane	An Anglo-Saxon nobleman who owned land.

### Home Challenges

Read and re-order the story of the legend of King Arthur.

Find out about the Anglo-Saxon runic alphabet and have a go at writing a message using runes and find out as many facts about runes as you can.

Find out what the Old English epic poem 'Beowulf' is all about and how it has influenced the 2007 movie of the same name.

### Useful websites

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zxsbcdm> a child friendly website providing a wealth of information on a range of Anglo-Saxon topics

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sutton-hoo> provides information on the history of the fascinating site of Sutton Hoo in Suffolk.

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/anglo-saxons/> lots of information from what Anglo-Saxons ate to manuscripts written by hand by early Christian monks.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zxsbcdm> child friendly answers to who?, where?, when?, why? and what? questions about the Anglo-Saxons.