

History Subject Knowledge Bank

Year 4: Britain's Settlement by Anglo Saxons and Scots

<u>Vocabulary</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Withdrawal	Ceasing to participate
Conquest	Taking control of a place
Decade/Century	A period of 10/100 years
Interpretation	A way of explaining
Kingdom	A territory ruled by a monarch
Anglo-Saxons	Someone who comes from people who invaded England 410-1066
Society	How people are organised as a community
Citizen	Someone who belongs to society

Who were the Anglo Saxons and Scots?

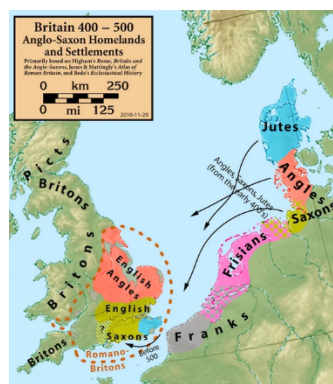
- Roman soldiers left Britain by AD410.
- The Anglo-Saxon Age in Britain was from around AD410 to 1066.
- The three biggest tribes were the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes. Their homelands in Scandinavia often flooded so it was tough to grow enough food there. Whole families set sail to live in Britain. They brought tools, weapons and farm animals with them
- Children would not go to school. Girls would help around the home and boys learned the skills of their fathers
- The Anglo-Saxons were great craftsmen. Metalworkers made iron tools, knives and swords. They were skilled jewellers, who made brooches, beads and ornaments from gold, gemstones and glass. The Scots, who came from Ireland, invaded and took land in Scotland.

What did the Anglo Saxons achieve?

- The Anglo-Saxon achievements were cultural, religious, economic, and political.
- They replaced the Roman stone buildings with their own wooden ones, and spoke their own language, which gave rise to the English spoken today.
- They built ships against Viking sea attacks- beginning the English navy and had books translated into English. They promoted learning, founded monasteries and commissioned the writing of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, a historical record of the Anglo-Saxons in Britain.
- They gave us the idea of the English nation and one of the greatest of all Britons, Alfred the Great.

Alfred the Great

- Alfred, one of the only kings in British history to be called 'Great' was born in 851.
- He fought the Vikings and then made peace so that English and Vikings settled down to live together. He encouraged people to learn and he tried to govern well and fairly.
- Alfred became king in 871 when his elder brother died.
- During his reign he was advised by a council of nobles and church leaders. This council was called the Witan.
- The young King Alfred had to hide from the Vikings on a marshy island called Athelney, in Somerset. Alfred made good laws and believed education was important. He had books translated from Latin into English, so people could read them. He also told monks to begin writing the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle.
- Alfred died in 899 and was buried at Winchester.



What happened in 1066?

- In 1066, England was invaded twice. First, a Norwegian army led by Harald Hardrada landed in the north. King Harold killed Harald Hardrada at the Battle of Stamford Bridge.
- Three days later William's Norman army landed in the south of England. William and Harold's armies fought at the Battle of Hastings.
- The Normans won, King Harold was killed, and William became king. This brought an end to Anglo-Saxon and Viking rule. A new age of Norman rule in England had started.

What was life like in Anglo Saxon Britain??

- The Anglo-Saxons lived in small villages near rivers, forests and other important resources that gave them everything they needed to care for farm animals, grow crops and make things to sell.
- The largest villages had no more than a few hundred people living there. Anglo-Saxons mostly lived in one-room houses made from wood, with thatched roofs. Important people in the village would live in a larger building with their advisors and soldiers – this was called the hall.
- All round the village was a high fence to keep the herds safe at night from enemies and wild animals.
- They divided England into kingdoms, each with its own royal family. The five main Anglo-Saxon kingdoms were Northumbria, Mercia, Wessex, Kent and Anglia.
- Each group of Anglo-Saxon settlers had a leader. Each king ruled a kingdom and led a small army. They didn't have prisons. People found guilty of crimes were executed or punished with fines.

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