

History Year 5

Anglo-Saxons and Vikings



Pupils will be taught about Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots and the Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor (NC)

Key Facts

- The Anglo-Saxon age in Britain was from AD410 to 1066.
- This period of history started when the Romans left Britain.
- Scots tribes invaded from Ireland to north Britain (now Scotland).
- The tribes of Scotland, the Picts and Scots, were powerful fighters and a threat to the Romano-Britons and British Celtic tribes.
- The abandoned Romano-British leader Vortigern asked two Saxons, Hengist and Horsa, to help fight the northern tribes.
- These Saxons then led to an invasion of different tribes from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. The three biggest were the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes.
- The invaders eventually settled in 'Angle-land', or England.
- Britons were forced to either flee to Wales or the West Country or become slaves.
- By around AD556 Britain had been divided into 7 main Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms: Northumbria, Mercia, Essex, East Anglia, Wessex, Kent and Sussex.
- Most Anglo-Saxons were farmers.
- Life on an Anglo-Saxon farm was hard work. All the family had to help: men, women and children.
- The Anglo-Saxons were great craftsmen and skilled jewellers.
- The early Anglo-Saxons were Pagans.

- Sutton Hoo is a site where a famous Anglo-Saxon burial ship was discovered.
- The Vikings were Norse people who came from Scandinavia.
- In AD793 the Vikings invaded Lindisfarne Priory.
- The Vikings raided places such as monasteries and pillaged expensive items to trade.
- They invaded and settled in Scotland before heading south to places such as Jorvik (York).
- By AD878 the Vikings had settled permanently in Britain.
- The Vikings overran all Anglo-Saxon kingdoms except Wessex.
- Many Anglo-Saxon kings tried and failed to resist the Vikings and fought hard to keep control of their land.
- King Alfred the Great of Wessex was the first to defeat the Vikings in battle.
- King Alfred and the Vikings agreed a peace. Some Vikings settled in their own area of eastern England, called the Danelaw.
- After this, the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings co-existed in Britain but not without on-going battles.
- For around 200 years, the struggle for the Kingdom of England meant that there were periods of both Anglo-Saxon and Viking rule until the death of Edward the Confessor.

Anglo-Saxon & Viking Legacy: English has its roots in Old English which was spoken during the time of the Saxons. The Vikings also influenced the English language. Many places in Britain retain their names from the Anglo-Saxons and Viking period.

Chronology of Key Events

AD450

Saxons land in Britain

AD556

Seven Kingdoms created across Britain

AD866

Vikings Capture York

AD876

Vikings permanently settle in England

AD886

Alfred the Great crowned King of the Anglo-Saxons

Historical Skills



- Describe the social, ethnic, cultural or religious diversity of past society.
- Understand the concepts of continuity and change over time.
- Use dates and terms accurately in describing events.
- Describe the main changes in a period of history.
- Use sources of evidence to deduce.
- Suggest causes and consequences of some of the main events and changes in history.

Key Vocabulary



- Pagan
- Missionary
- Christianity
- Monasteries
- Kingdom
- Long ship
- Invade
- Pillage
- Raid
- Danegeld

Significant People



- Angles
- Saxons
- Jutes
- Scots
- Picts
- Hengist and Horsa
- Vikings
- Alfred the Great
- Edward the Confessor
- Monks
- Romans

When in History?

