

## HISTORY IN THE UK

TOPIC: The Anglo Saxons  
Summer 1



## OVERVIEW:

Children develop their knowledge of the Saxon invasion and settlement in Britain through a series of practical and informative blocks that have imaginative outcomes such as a Saxon Quest board game, a group model of a longhouse, a Saxon feast, a Dragon's Den trade drama, a mythological creature and a Saxon celebration event.

## Cultural Capital:

Knowledge of excavations such as Sutton Hoo.  
Knowledge of language brought with the Saxons e.g. Days of the week  
Knowledge of language brought with the Saxons  
Place names: *bury* - fortified place; *ford* - shallow river crossing; *ham* - village; *stead* -

**The Saxons**

**Summer**


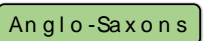
Extract of our Reading Roadmap for the year.

### Books:

Anglo Saxon Boy – Tony Bradman  
Beowulf – Michael Morpurgo  
Wolf Wilder – Katherine Rundell

**Key concepts:** **community & culture** (architecture, art, communication, economy, inspiration, myth, nation, religion, settlement, story, trade), **conflict & disaster** - (conquest, liberation, occupation, military, peace, surrender, treaty, war), **exploration & invention** (discovery, migration, navigation), **hierarchy & power** - (country, equality, government, law, monarchy, oppression, peasantry, privilege, protection, slavery, tyranny), **cause & consequence**, **change & continuity**, **similarity & difference**, **evidence & interpretation** (eye-witness, source), **significance**

Knowledge:



Timeline									
410	497	575	586	597	757	793	871	1016	1066
Romans left Britain leaving it ungarded	The kingdom of Wessex is formed	The kingdom of East Angles is formed	The kingdom of Mercia is formed	St Augustine introduces Christianity	Offa King of Mercia declares himself King of England	Vikings attack Lindisfarne	Alfred the Great rules	Canute the Great rules as first Viking	Battle of Hastings Normans defeat the Saxons

**Key Vocabulary**

**Bayeux Tapestry**  
70cm long embroidered cloth depicting the events leading up to the Norman conquest.

**Beowulf**  
An Old English epic story consisting of 3182 alliterative lines written in c. 750-1000.

**Lindisfarne**  
A monastery in northern England where Vikings first landed and attacked from Scandinavia.

**lyre**  
A five to seven stringed musical instrument used in northern Europe.

**mead**  
An alcoholic beverage made from honey, water and yeast, often with spiced and herbs.

**Offa's Dyke**  
A large linear earthwork on the border of Wales and England ordered by King Offa.

**runes**  
Alphabet consisting of between 26-33 letters used to write Old English.

**Sutton Hoo helmet**  
A decorated Anglo-Saxon iron helmet excavated in 1939 buried around 625.

**thatch**  
The craft of building a roof with dry vegetation such as reeds and straw.

**wattle-and-daub**  
The weaving of small wooden branches with mud, straw, horse hair and dung to create walls.

A famous Anglo-Saxon archaeological site is Sutton Hoo, where a whole ship was used as a grave! An Anglo-Saxon king was buried inside the ship along with some of his possessions, such as his helmet and sword.

**General Knowledge**

**Where did the Anglo-Saxons come from?**  
The Romans left Britain in 410 due to fierce tribes attacking Italy and every soldier was needed back at home to defend the country. Without an army of its own, it left the country vulnerable to attackers. The Anglo-Saxons came from Denmark, Netherlands and northern Germany across the North Sea in wooden boats. They conquered England but failed to conquer Scotland, Wales and Cornwall (an area of south-west England).

**The Vikings**  
The Anglo-Saxons were under constant attack from Vikings who travelled from Scandinavia and invaded towns and villages in Wales, Scotland, England and the Isle of Man. Finally conquering York (London) in 866, they finally defeated the Anglo-Saxons as the Normans (Norsemen) from Normandy (France) invaded and won the Battle of Hastings in 1066. The Normans in France were originally Vikings from Scandinavia!

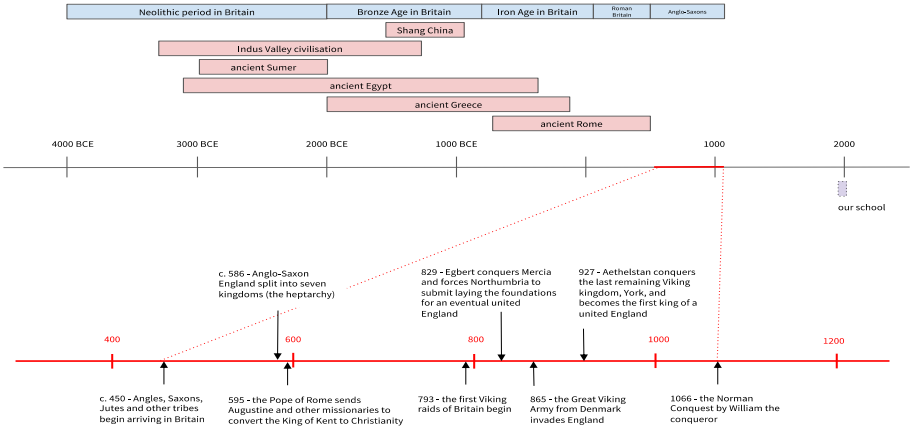
**Famous Figures**

**St Augustine (c.530-604)**  
Augustine of Canterbury was a Christian missionary sent from Rome to convert people from Anglo-Saxon paganism to Christianity. He was considered to be responsible for the widespread adoption of the Christian faith throughout England.


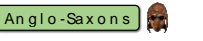
**King Aethelbert (c.550-616)**  
King of Kent who created the first Germanic law code in the early 7th Century and became the first English king to convert to Christianity due to Augustine's mission to convert people from paganism.

**King Offa (c.720-790)**  
King of Mercia, and of most of England in the mid-8th Century. Historians regard him as the most powerful Anglo-Saxon king until Alfred the Great.

**King Alfred the Great (849-899)**  
Fought the Vikings and defeated them in the Battle of Edington (878) and thus made an agreement with them (Danelaw). He was known for improving the standard of living, legal and military systems as well as education.



Assessment:



Mini-Quiz #1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1) By what year was the Kingdom of Mercia formed?

a) 597  
b) 586  
c) 575

2) Which country did the Anglo-Saxons come from?

a) Netherlands  
b) Sweden  
c) Scotland

3) What was the Sutton Hoo?

a) a ship  
b) a monastery  
c) an ancient house

4) How long was their alphabet?

a) 26-33 letters  
b) 15-25 letters  
c) 23-38 letters

5) What year was Lindisfarne attacked by Vikings?

a) 757  
b) 597  
c) 793

6) What was mead?

a) an alcoholic drink  
b) a musical instrument  
c) a roof made of reeds

7) What was Beowulf?

a) a famous king  
b) an epic story  
c) an archaeological site

8) Who first introduced Christianity?

a) St Augustine  
b) King Aethelbert  
c) King Offa

9) When was the Battle of Hastings?

a) 1016  
b) 1066  
c) 1081

10) What year was the kingdom of East Angles formed?

a) 575  
b) 497  
c) 586

Total Score: \_\_\_\_\_ out of 10

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Skills

Geography:

Research, Describe, Observe, Recognise (Name, Identify, Locate) Understand (Explain, Interpret, Compare and Contrast), Measure-Record-Present, Conclude (Analyse, Opinion), Make Judgements (Debate, Evaluate, Predict)

History:

Research, Describe, Observe, Identify/Construct, Sequence/Sort, Understand (through explanation), Conclude, Make Judgements

Vocabulary

**Retrieval vocab:** AD, artefact, attack, BC, BCE, CE, century, chariot, clan, destroyed, emperor, empress, fort, goods, hero, historian, influence, irrigation, language, leisure, millennium, modern, monument, organisation, past, population, province, rebellion, republic, ruler, tax, territory, tribe, weapon, worship

**From Roman learning:** authority, barter, corruption, treaty, capital, legend, king, representative, god, goddess, holy, temple, sacred, symbol, nation, tax, border, foreigner, supplies, kingdom, scroll, pillage, collapse

New vocab:

## New Knowledge

### Key Questions:

#### **Focus 1: Who were the Anglo-Saxons, where did they come from and why did they come?**

Where did the Saxons come from? Where did they invade and settle? Why did they leave Scandinavia? How do we know about them?

#### **Focus 2: Who ruled Anglo-Saxon Britain and how was the country divided?**

Were there differences in significance of Anglo- Saxon kings during the Saxon period? Who was King Ethelred II? When and why was Danegeld introduced? Explain how the last Anglo-Saxon kings shaped Britain.

#### **Focus 3: What was life-like in Anglo-Saxon Britain?**

What are some key aspects of Saxon life? How did the legal system work in Anglo-Saxon Britain?

#### **Focus 4: How did Anglo-Saxon England become a Christian country?**

What were their beliefs? Why were some Britons already Christian? What can we learn from burial sites such as Sutton Hoo?

#### **Focus 5: What were the consequences of the Viking invasion?**

In which different ways did the Saxon Kings deal with the Vikings? Where was Danelaw? How was England reunited?

#### **Focus 6: What was the Norman Conquest, and what were its consequences?**

How do we know about the events during this time? Why is the date 1066 significant?

### ART: Clothing

*Having found out about the way the Anglo-Saxons made their own clothes, try your hand at dyeing with natural dyes and weaving some fabric.*

### DT: To describe the materials and construction of Anglo-Saxon buildings.

Generate, develop and communicate their ideas through talking and drawing; Select from and use a wide range of materials, according to their characteristics; Evaluate their products against design criteria.

### COOKING: Create an Anglo Saxon Meal