

Anglo-Saxons

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ESSENTIAL ANGLO-SAXONS VOCABULARY	
Angles	Tribes from Denmark that settled in Britain. They were one of the tribes that became known as the first Anglo-Saxons
Saxons	A tribe from Germany, that settled in Britain. They were one of the tribes that became known as the first Anglo-Saxons.
Jutes	Tribes from Germany that settled in Britain. They were one of the tribes that became known as the Anglo-Saxons.
tribes	A group of people who live and work together and share the same language and beliefs.
paganism	A religion that involves the worship many different gods.
Christianity	The religion based on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.
kingdom	An area ruled by a King or Queen.
monk	A man who lives apart from society and devotes his life to religion.
monastery	A monastery is where monks lived and prayed.
artefact	Man-made objects from a time period eg tools, clothes, art, weapons
archaeologist	They find historical artefacts which help us understand what life was like in the past.
medieval	The period of history from 500 AD to 1500 AD
invaded	Entering an area by force in order to take over.
religion	A set of beliefs held by a group pf people, usually involving worship or prayer.

Who were the Anglo-Saxons?



The Anglo-Saxons were a group of people made up from tribes from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. They sailed across the North Sea and invaded different parts of Britain.

What happened to the Romans?



The Romans left Britain in 410 AD to defend their home territory. This left Britain with no ruler – they'd been under Roman rule for 400 years!

Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms

Under the Anglo-Saxon's rule, Britain was split into 7 kingdoms:

- Northumbria
- Mercia
- East Anglia
- Sussex
- Essex
- Wessex
- Kent

13,000 BC – 2,500 BC	2,500 BC – 800 BC	800 BC – 43 AD	43 AD – 410 AD	410 AD – 1066 AD
Stone Age Britain	Bronze Age Britain	Iron Age Britain	Roman Britain	Anglo Saxon Britain

Why did the Anglo-Saxons come to Britain?

- To fight: some Anglo-Saxon warriors enjoyed fighting and thought Britain was weak and easy to beat without the Romans
- To farm: many Anglo-Saxons came peacefully to find land to farm as their land in Scandinavia often flooded
- To make new homes: families came to live in Britain. They brought tools, weapons and farm animals with them to build new villages
- They were invited: Britons invited Anglo-Saxons to help them fight off other invaders, but they didn't leave, they took over!



Fun fact! Lots of our town names today come from the Anglo-Saxons! Any towns ending in ham, ford or worth come from the Anglo-Saxons!

Pagan Gods

The religion of the early Anglo-Saxons was paganism. They worshipped many gods. Festivals and sacrifices were made to the gods and goddesses.

Some pagan gods were:

- Woden – chief Anglo-Saxon god
- Frige – goddess of marriage, childbirth and the home
- Thunor – god of thunder
- Tiw – god of war
- Eostre – goddess of spring and rebirth
- Bealdor – god of light

Fun fact! Days of the week are named after the Anglo-Saxon gods!

- Tiw's day – Tuesday
- Woden's day – Wednesday
- Thunor's day – Thursday
- Frige's day – Friday

Conversion to Christianity

During the Anglo-Saxon's rule, Britain converted back to Christianity. 3 monks, Saint Columba, Saint Augustine and Saint Aiden came to Britain and convinced the Anglo-Saxons to covert to Christianity. They built monasteries, some of which are still standing today!

Anglo-Saxon artefacts

Archaeologists have found many historical artefacts to tell us about Anglo-Saxon life. Sutton Hoo is the site of a grave of an Anglo-Saxon King which was discovered in 1939. It is one of the largest archaeological finds the Saxon period in Europe.

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles were a series of pages written by monks about important events of the Anglo-Saxon times.