



Knowledge Organiser for Year 5/6

Topic – Anglo Saxons and the Vikings

Key questions:

- Can you define who the Anglo-Saxons were and why they wanted to settle in Britain?
- Can you explain that during the Anglo Saxon period, Britain was split into seven kingdoms and that these led to our county boundaries?
- Can you explain what the mystery of Sutton Hoo is?
- Can you use a timeline to plot the key events of Anglo-Saxon and Viking history?
- Can you define who the Vikings were, where they came from and why they settled in Britain?
- Can you identify that the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons were often in conflict?
- Can you use historical evidence and artefacts to investigate historical lines of enquiry?

Key facts and figures

Farmers	Many of the Anglo-Saxons that came over were farmers - Historians think that floodwaters where they came from was making farming very difficult so they came over to Britain to search for better farm land.
Days of the Week	The days of the week we use come from Anglo-Saxon times.
Around 450 AD	After a failed attempt to invade in the 4 th Century, the Anglo Saxons decided to try again. The Ancient Romans left Britain, the Anglo-Saxons seized their chance and this time they were successful!
787 AD	The Vikings first attacked Britain in 787 AD, but didn't start to invade and settle in the British Isles until 793 AD.
Jorvik	Jorvik was a large Viking kingdom around York; the last king of Jorvik was Eric Bloodaxe in 954 AD.
878 AD	King Alfred the Great defeated the Vikings in battle and had them sign a treaty saying they had to keep to their own land in England – this section of land was called Danelaw.
1016-1035 AD	The rule of King Canute – the only Viking English King.
1066AD	The Battle of Hastings – this happened after the Anglo-Saxon king died without an heir to the throne.

Did you know...?

- The Anglo-Saxons came from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands, crossing the North Sea in wooden boats.
- The Anglo-Saxons lived in wooden huts with straw roofs. Inside the hut was one big room. Families would all sleep in this one room as well as eating and spending time together.
- Many of our festive traditions come from Anglo-Saxon times, even before they became Christians. Christmas coincides with Yuletide which they celebrated around 25th of December. Eating a Yule log, hanging up stockings and decorating houses with holly are all things we do because of Anglo-Saxon Pagan traditions.
- The word 'Viking' means 'a pirate raid' in the Norse language, which is what the Vikings spoke.
- The Vikings kept long benches in their homes that they'd use to sit on during the day, and then to sleep on at night. Only rich people had beds.
- In Viking times, people usually just took baths once a week! This was often on Saturdays.

Key vocabulary or people

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saxons • Celts • Longboat • Chieftain • Berserker • Figurehead • Valhalla • Agriculture • Raiders • Settlers • Kingdom • Angles • Jutes • Mead • Rune • Wattle-and-daub | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vikings • Danegeld • Yggdrasil • Danelaw • Asgard • Jarl • Karl • Fertile • Invaders • Conflict • Alfred the Great • Thatch • Farmer-Warrior • Sutton Hoo • Lindisfarne • Manuscript |
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