

Anglo-Saxons and Vikings Knowledge Organiser

Anglo-Saxons and Vikings

A study of the Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England up until the time of Edward the Confessor.

Objectives

- Select, organise and record relevant information from a range of sources to produce well-structured narratives, descriptions and explanations.
- Make appropriate use of historical terms in discussion and understand key concepts.
- Make connections between two periods of history to begin to develop historical perspective.
- Describe how a significant individual or movement has influenced the UK or wider world.
- Describe how different types of evidence tell us different things about the past and understand why contrasting arguments and interpretations occur.
- Link events from periods studied to changes or developments in contemporary society.
- Independently place historical events or change on a timeline, remembering key facts from a period of history studied.
- Follow independent lines of enquiry and make informed responses based on this.

Timeline

410 AD — Roman rule in Britain ends.
449-550 AD — Angles and Saxons invade.
455 AD — Kingdom of Kent formed.
477 AD — Kingdom of Sussex formed.
495 AD — Kingdom of Wessex formed.
527 AD — Kingdom of Essex formed.
547 AD — Kingdom of Northumberland formed.
575 AD — Kingdom of East Anglia formed.
586 AD — Kingdom of Mercia formed.
597 AD - St. Augustine came to England and introduced people to Christianity.
787 AD — First recorded Viking attack.
793 AD — Viking raid on Lindisfarne.
867-878 AD — Series of big Viking victories.
871-899 AD - Alfred the Great ruled.
1016-1035 AD - Cnut the Great ruled as the first Viking king.
1066 AD - The Battle of Hastings, resulting in the Normans defeating the Anglo-Saxons.

Key Vocabulary

Danegeld	A tax imposed in Anglo-Saxon England during the reign of King Ethelred to stop Vikings from attacking the coast and invading.
Longship	A fast, light and easy-to-move ship used for raiding.
Norse	Relating to ancient or medieval Norway or Scandinavia.
Pagan	The religion of the early Anglo-Saxon people was Paganism. Paganism is a polytheistic religion, which means many gods are worshipped. Key Anglo-Saxon gods included: Woden, Frigg, Thunor and Tiw.
Runes	The letters of an ancient Germanic alphabet, used by the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings.
Thane	An Anglo-Saxon nobleman who owned land.

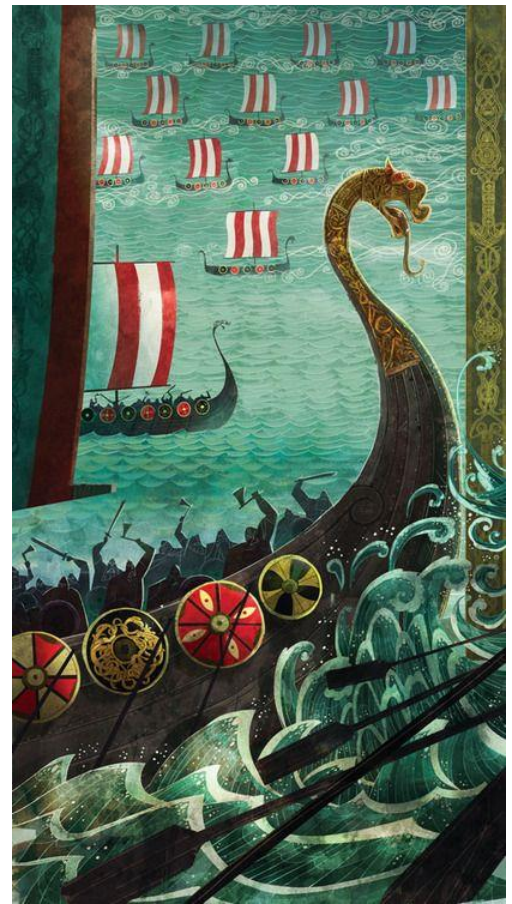
Key Content: Anglo Saxons

The last Roman soldiers left Britain in 410. Britain no longer had the strong Roman army to defend it from the invaders. New people came in ships across the **North Sea**: the Anglo-Saxons. The Anglo-Saxon age in Britain was from around AD410 to 1066.

They were a mix of tribes from **Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands**. The three biggest were the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes. The land they settled in was 'Angle-land', or England

Some Anglo-Saxons were warriors who enjoyed fighting. They thought the Britons were weak and easy to beat without the Romans around. Others came peacefully to find land to farm.

Anglo-Saxon Britain wasn't ruled by one person and the Anglo-Saxons were not united. They invaded as many different tribes and each took over different parts of Britain.



Key Content: Viking Raids

The Vikings were famous for sailing huge distances from their home in **Scandinavia** between AD 700 and 1066 to raid and plunder, but they also traded with people from other countries. The Vikings left their homeland because they were looking for better places to farm than the kind of terrain that Scandinavia had.

Anglo-Saxon history tells of many Viking raids. The first Viking raid was around AD787. It was the start of a fierce struggle between the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings.

Over time, the Vikings took control of several Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. Eventually the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings made a peace agreement, but the fighting continued for many years.

The Vikings and Anglo-Saxons divided up Britain with the Anglo-Saxons living mainly in the west and the Vikings in an area to the east, known as the **Danelaw**.

A few weeks before the Anglo-Saxons were defeated in the **Battle of Hastings** in 1066, they defeated Viking warriors near York, led by Harald Hardrada at the Battle of Stamford Bridge.

Key People

Edward the Confessor - The last but one of the Anglo-Saxon kings of England, Edward was known for his religious faith.

Alfred the Great - Alfred was one of the greatest Anglo-Saxon kings. After years of fighting, Alfred made peace with the Vikings.

Athelstan - Alfred the Great's grandson. He reigned between AD925 and AD939 and was the very first 'King of all England'.

William the Conqueror - The first Norman King of England.

King Cnut (also known as King Canute) - a fierce Danish warrior king who ruled over England between 1016 and 1035.

Home Learning Suggestions

1. Design and make a model Viking longship, helmet or shield.
2. Research and make a booklet, poster or PowerPoint about Anglo-Saxon or Viking gods.
3. Read and retell some Norse myths.
4. Create a board game inspired by the Vikings and/or Anglo-Saxons.