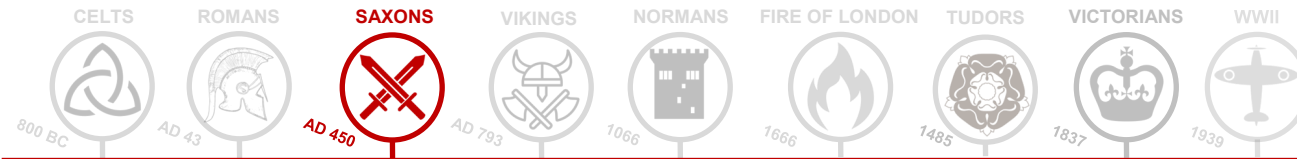


Year 4: Anglo-Saxons

HISTORICAL CONTEXT



KEY FACTS:

The Anglo-Saxons started to try and invade Britain towards the end of the Roman Empire.

The Anglo-Saxon period stretched for over 600 years from 410 - 1066 when the Normans conquered Britain.

The Anglo-Saxons was the name of the tribes of warrior farmers from north-western Europe (Denmark, West Germany and the Netherlands) - the Jutes, the Angles and the Saxons. They all shared the same language but were ruled by different strong warriors.

HOW THEY LIVED:

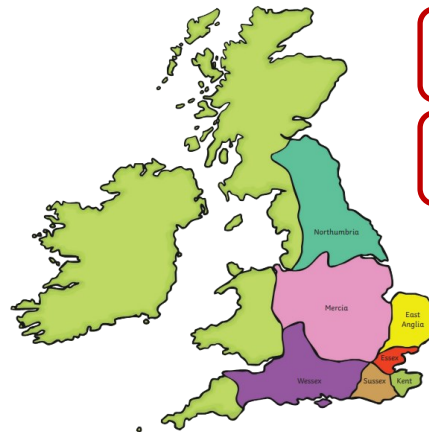
The fall of the Roman Empire left Britain's shores unprotected. The Anglo-Saxons settled in Britain because of the warmer weather and better land for farming.

The Anglo-Saxons took control of the most of England, but never conquered Cornwall.

Anglo-Saxons built their own settlements near rivers and streams, avoiding the already established Roman towns. They communities were small and everyone worked together.

The houses were built from wood, with thatched roofs and walls plastered with mud, animal dung and hair and chopped up straw

ANGLO-SAXON IMPACT:



Many places in England today have names relating to name of Anglo-Saxon tribes or gods or physical features.

In 556 Anglo-Britain was split into kingdoms show on the map to the left, each with its own king.

Unlike the Romans, the Anglo-Saxons never 'went home' and many people who live in Britain today have Anglo-Saxon ancestry.

The name England even comes from the Saxon word 'Angle-Land'

END OF THE PERIOD:

Edward the Confessor died in January 1066

He was succeeded by Harold Godwinson but not everyone wanted him to be king.

Other contenders of the throne were; Harold Hardrada and William of Normandy.

The Anglo-Saxon era ended in Britain with the victory of William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings. He was crowned king on Christmas Day 1066.

KEY VOCABULARY:



BURIAL: the action or practice of burying a dead body



KINGDOMS: a county, state or territory ruled by a king or queen



CONVERT: change from one religion to another



MINISTERS: a member or the clergy in some religions



COUNTIES: areas of land in some countries, formed by aristocratic people



MISSIONARIES: a person sent on a religious mission, to promote Christianity in a foreign country.



CRAFTSMAN: a worker skilled in a particular craft



MONKS: members of a religious community of men, typically living in poverty and obedience.



EXCAVATED: extract from the ground by digging.



NOBLEMAN: a man who belongs by rank, title or birth to the aristocracy



NUNS: members of a religious community of woman, typically living in poverty and obedience.



PAGAN: a person holding religious beliefs other than those of the main world religions.



SETTLED: make permanent home somewhere



SETTLEMENT: a place, typically one which has previously been uninhabited, where people establish a community.



SUCCEDED: take over a throne, office or other position.

HOW RELIGION CHANGED:

Most Anglo-Saxons living in Britain were Pagans.

A monk called Augustine led missionaries from Rome to convert Anglo-Saxons to Christianity in 597CE.

Augustine converted King Aethelbert to Christianity and Christianity became a big part of life. Once the king was converted it was expected everyone would convert

Kings and noblemen set up minster and expected nuns and monks to pray for them - especially during times of trouble and war.

Before the Roman era, Britain was a Pagan nation.

