



Year 5

The Anglo-Saxons and The Scots

Builds on Knowledge and Skills

The last Roman soldiers left Britain in 410 CE. New people came in ships across the North Sea: they were known as the Anglo-Saxons. The Anglo-Saxon age in Britain was from around 410 to 1066 CE. They were a mix of tribes from Germany (The Saxons were German-Dutch), Denmark (The Angles were southern Danish) and the Jutes (Northern Danish). The land they settled in was 'Angle-land', or England.

Books, texts, primary and secondary sources you may use:

- [BBC Bitesize](#) – Anglo Saxons
- [Nat Geo Kids](#) – Anglo Saxons
- [BBC Teach](#) – History KS2 – The Anglo Saxons
- Beowulf (Usborne) – Rob Lloyd and Victor Tavares
- Anglo-Saxon Boy – Tony Bradman

Suggested family experience

- Visit the British Museum where you can see many artefacts discovered at Sutton Hoo. Details can be found [here](#) of how to visit.

National Curriculum Links

Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons:

- Roman withdrawal from Britain in c. 410 CE and the fall of the western Roman Empire.
- Scots invasions from Ireland to north Britain (now Scotland)
- Anglo-Saxon invasions, settlements and kingdoms: place names and village life.
- Anglo-Saxon art and culture.
- Christian conversion – Canterbury, Iona and Lindisfarne.

Local: Anglo-Saxons 410-1066 CE

Once the Romans had left, Jersey was likely to have been invaded by 'Franks' - Western European people and were joined by 'Britons' who had left Britain. It is likely this is where Terriais origins began as well as the 12 parishes.

National:

The Battle of Hastings took place in 1066 CE between the Norman Army of Duke William of Normandy and an English Army under King Harold, where victory ensured the English crown. Victory by Duke William of Normandy brought about the end of English Anglo-Saxon rule and saw a new era of Normandy ruling.

International:

From 250 to 900 CE, the Mayan civilisation was in a time period called the *Classic* period. This meant that just like Anglo-Saxon Britain, the civilisation was split into tribes, ruled by kings and queens and found itself in constant conflict with rival tribes for land and power.

Vocabulary you will use:

Word	Definition
allegiance	Support of a person or group
Angles	A tribe from southern Denmark
Bretwalda	King of all Britain
Christians	A believer in the religion of Christianity
conflict	A struggle between two people or groups
conquered	Took control by force
Jutes	A tribe from northern Denmark
kingdom	A territory ruled by a king or queen
mythology	A set of stories or beliefs – some are exaggerated or fictitious
pagan	Religious beliefs other than those of the other world religions. Some pagans believed in many gods
Saxons	A German-Dutch tribe
Sutton Hoo	A place in the county of Suffolk, where important Anglo-Saxon artefacts were found
tribe	A group of people who come from a particular region and stay together as a group
Vikings	A group of Scandinavian people who raided and settled many parts of Europe

Quick Summary



The Anglo-Saxons were made up of different tribes, who invaded Britain after the Roman army left. The land they conquered was split into small kingdoms and the new invaders brought their own building methods, religious beliefs and language. During their rule, Christianity spread as monks from Rome came to England. Living in almost constant conflict, the Anglo-Saxons ruled large parts of England until 1066. This was the year that England was conquered by William, Duke of Normandy, after his victory at the Battle of Hastings.

Main Events

- 410: Roman army left Britain
- 597: St Augustine brought Christianity to Britain from Rome
- 878: Alfred the Great was victorious at the battle at Edington
- 927: Kingdom of England created
- 1939: Important discovery made at Sutton Hoo



Click [here](#) to find out what eventually happened to The Anglo Saxons when the Normans invaded.

Questions we'll ask you throughout the unit to check your knowledge and understanding.

Explain how the kingdom of England was created during Anglo-Saxon times.

Describe how Anglo-Saxon beliefs change over time.

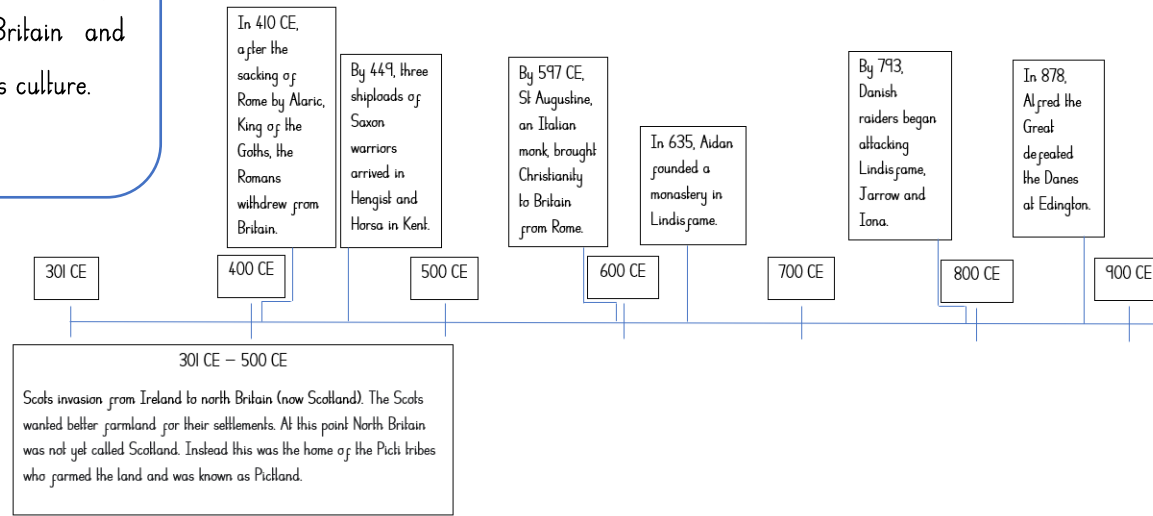
Explain the Scot invasion from Ireland to North Britain.

Describe Anglo-Saxon art and culture.

Who were the Anglo-Saxons and the Scots?

The 'Anglo-Saxons' were a mix of tribes from northern Europe who settled in Britain and began to change its culture.

The Anglo-Saxons and The Scots timeline



In the north, the Scots from Ireland had settled alongside the Picts.



Kingdoms and Settlements

Early Anglo Saxon Britain was made up of many different tribes with their own leaders, chiefs and kings.

These separate kingdoms were frequently in conflict with each other, and by the beginning of the seventh century, there were seven major Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms. They included Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Essex, Wessex, Sussex and Kent.



Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to see how Anglo-Saxon Britain was ruled.



The Anglo-Saxons took control of most of Britain. They settled in England in places near to rivers or the sea, which could be easily reached by boat. One of the places they settled in was Tonbridge, in Kent. Tonbridge was an ideal place to settle as it was on the main track from Hastings to London and has a river.

Names of some towns and villages we have today come from the Anglo-Saxons. Some were named after the chieftain (leader) and end with 'folk' or 'ing'. For example, the people who lived in the 'village' of Hastings were 'Haesta's people'.

Some name endings describe what was there:

- ham means village (e.g. Birmingham)
- ford means river crossing (e.g. Stratford)
- ton means farm (e.g. Middleton)
- bury means fortified place (e.g. Banbury)
- ley means forest clearing (e.g. Henley)

Conquest

Kings were at the top of Anglo-Saxon society. They were rich and powerful. The word 'king' comes from the Saxon word meaning 'leader of the people'.

This map shows the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in 660 CE.

Alfred the Great
(King of Wessex)



Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to learn more about him.



By the ninth century, when three of the four main kingdoms had fallen into the hands of the Vikings, only the kingdom of Wessex remained to resist them.

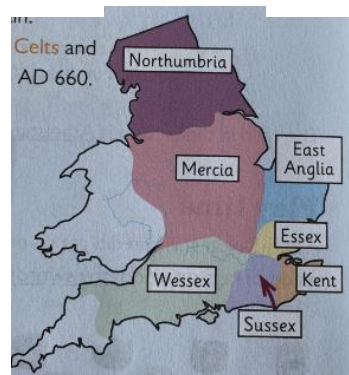


Eric Bloodaxe
(Viking King)

In 878, Alfred the Great, the King of Wessex won a famous battle at Edington. The victory was the beginning of a fightback against the Vikings.

The Vikings were defeated in 954, when their King, Eric Bloodaxe, was killed.

Anglo-Saxon England was split up into lots of different kingdoms, each with its own king. Sometimes the kingdoms also had an overall king, called a Brehwalda or 'Britain-ruler'. He was the most powerful king at any one time.



Beliefs

In Roman Britain, which you learnt about in Year 4, many people had been Christians. But the early Anglo-Saxons were not Christians, they were pagans. This means that they worshipped more than one god.

After the Romans left, Christianity continued in places where Anglo-Saxons did not settle, like Wales and the west. However, when the Anglo Saxons came to Britain they brought their own gods and beliefs with them.

Over time their beliefs changed, and many Anglo-Saxons were converted to Christianity. Read more about the spread of Christianity on Anglo-Saxon Britain – Iona/ Lindisfarne and Canterbury <https://www.imagininghistory.co.uk/post/saxons-convert-to-christianity>



The Gosforth Cross in St Marys Church, Gosforth has carvings showing scenes from Anglo-Saxon mythology.



Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to learn about Anglo-Saxon beliefs.

You have learnt about the Ancient Greeks. Like the Greeks, the Anglo-Saxons believed in many gods and had many superstitions.

These four Anglo-Saxon gods gave their names to the days of the week that we still use today:

- **Tiw** the god of war became **Tuesday**
- **Woden** the king of the gods became **Wednesday**
- **Thunor** the god of thunder became **Thursday**
- **Frige** the goddess of love became **Friday**

Art and Culture

The Anglo-Saxons were great craft workers. They made intricate jewellery, musical instruments and homemade toys and games.

Children played with homemade toys such as rag dolls and carved, wooden toys, as well as games that used counters and dice.



As men enjoyed sporting pastimes, like wrestling, weight lifting/ using heavy rocks and horse rearing, sports kept them fit for work and strong for war

Anglo-Saxon jewellers made brooches, beads and gold ornaments.



The Story of Beowulf

It was written down around 8th or 9th Century but, long before, it was told around a fire.



The Saxons liked to play with words too. They amused themselves by telling clever riddles.

They were keen storytellers. They would gather together in feasting halls and tell thrilling stories. Often their stories were accompanied by music played on an instrument called a lyre.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code and scroll to the bottom of the page. Here you can watch a video to learn about the artefacts that were found at Sutton Hoo and what they tell us about Anglo-Saxon beliefs.

