

Year 4 – Autumn Knowledge Organiser

Anglo-Saxons



Heathfield Schools' Partnership

ambitious for the future

This unit will introduce the children to what life was like in Anglo-Saxon Britain. They will learn about what happened once the Romans left Britain and where the Anglo-Saxons came from. They will use artefacts and secondary sources to find out more about the Anglo-Saxon people as well as identifying key features of homes in this period, and how they are different to the homes we see today. The children will have the opportunity to learn about Anglo-Saxon religion and make comparisons to Roman beliefs. They will look closely at Sutton Hoo, recognise the importance of sites like this and understand why archaeologists and historians are interested in it. Finally, the children will learn about law, crime and punishment and compare these from the Anglo-Saxon period to today.

Key knowledge

- The Anglo-saxons arrived in Britain in AD 449, from countries now known as Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands. The largest tribes of people living here were called the Saxons, Jutes and Angles.
- Britain was divided into seven Kingdoms: Northumbria, Mercia, Essex, East Anglia, Wessex, Kent and Sussex.
- The Anglo-Saxon people were warriors and wore helmets made from iron and bronze and strong metal armour.
- Other jobs included; farmers, metal workers and jewellers.
- Anglo-Saxon homes looked very different to the ones we live in today.
- The Chief would live in the largest house in the village along with his warriors.
- The early Anglo-Saxons were Pagans, unlike the Romans and the people living in Britain before they arrived. Eventually, most Anglo-Saxons were converted to Christianity.
- Anglo-Saxons were buried with belongings, for example knives, spears or tools for sewing.
- In 1939, archaeologists discovered a ship burial at Sutton Hoo, where they found precious objects including coins, a mask, a shield, a sword and a helmet.
- Criminals were either executed or punished with fines and for crimes like stealing they might have had their nose or hand cut off!

Anglo Saxon Timeline



Vocabulary

AD - Anno Domini	The time after the birth of Jesus Christ (Year 0)
CE—Common Era	
BC - Before Christ	The time before the birth of Jesus Christ (Year 0)
BCE—Before common era	
Chief	The leader of the village.
Jutes	Northern Danish large tribe.
Angles	Southern Danish large tribe.
Saxons	German-Dutch large tribe.
Woden	King of Anglo-Saxon gods. German version of Scandinavian god Odin.
Thunor	Anglo-Saxon god of thunder.
Tiw	Anglo-Saxon god of war.
Frige	Anglo-Saxon goddess of love.
Sutton Hoo	An excavation site discovered in 1939 by archaeologists, in Suffolk.
Cyning	Anglo-Saxon word for King.
Outlaws	Run-aways and were living outside the law.
Paganism	Religion followed by the early Anglo-Saxons. They had many gods and were superstitious.