

# Anglo Saxons Knowledge Planner: Why did the Anglo Saxons settle in Britain?

## Anglo-Saxon Britain

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.

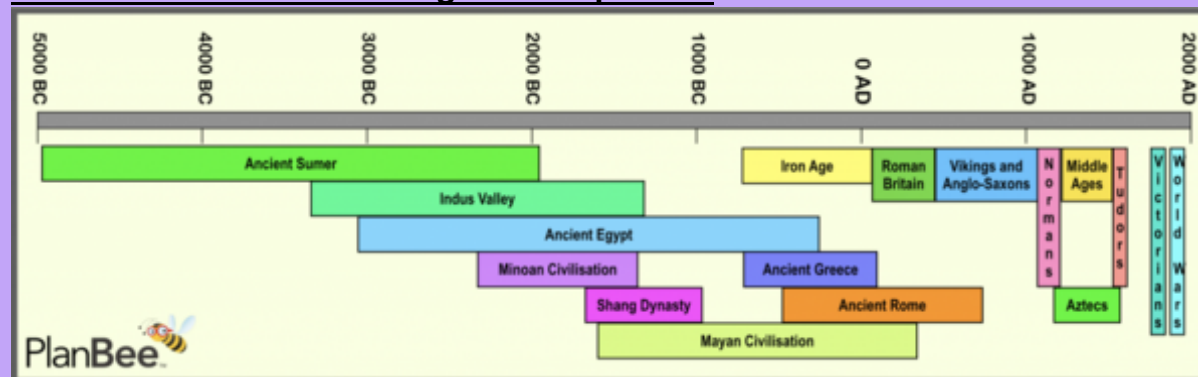
### Historical Concepts

Change	The process or actions by which something or someone becomes different.
Continuity	Aspects that may stay the same despite changes.
Causation	The connections between events where one thing happens as a result of another
Significance	Identifying those events, sources, people, places or ideas which are most important.
Similarity and Difference	Comparing ways of life at different times.
Perspective	When interpreting evidence recognise that judgements are influenced by the view and opinion of the observer.
Sources	Evidence that is used to gather information and reach judgements.
Chronology	Arrange historical events in their correct time order.
Empathy	Placing yourself in another's position to better understand their actions.

### Key Vocabulary

Angles	people from Germany and Denmark who invaded Britain around AD 410
Anglo-Saxon	the name given to the people who travelled from Germany and South Denmark and settled in Britain around AD 410
archaeologist	someone who studies the past by exploring old remains
artefact	an object from the past that shows evidence of what life was like
century	a period of 100 years
invasion	to try and take over a place by force
Jutes	people from the Jutland peninsula (Germany and Southern Denmark) who invaded Britain around AD 410
migration	movement from one place to another in order to settle there
monk	a member of a male religious community
pagan	a person who does not follow a major religion and worships multiple gods
Picts	ancient tribes who lived in northern Scotland
Saxons	people from northern and central Germany who invaded Britain around AD 410
Scots	people from Ireland who eventually settled in Scotland
settler/settlement	people who migrate to a new place. When people start a community, this is a settlement







### Timeline: When was the Anglo Saxon period?



Timeline

- 410**  
The Romans left Britain, leaving it unguarded by armies and open to invasion by others
- 455**  
The kingdom of Kent was formed
- 477**  
The kingdom of Sussex was formed
- 495**  
The kingdom of Wessex was formed
- 527**  
The kingdom of Essex was formed
- 547**  
The kingdom of Northumberland was formed
- 575**  
The kingdom of East Anglia was formed
- 586**  
The kingdom of Mercia was formed
- 597**  
St. Augustine came to England and introduced people to Christianity
- 757-796**  
Offa was King of the kingdom of Mercia and declared himself King of all England
- 802**  
Egbert was the first Anglo-Saxon king of all England
- 871-899**  
Alfred the Great ruled
- 1066**  
The Battle of Hastings took place, resulting in the Normans defeating the Anglo-Saxons

Reasons the Anglo Saxons invaded Britain.

<p>It meant they would have more land for farming</p> 	<p>Britain had a milder climate</p> 	<p>Saxon land had flooded</p> 
<p>There was a lack of food in their homelands</p> 	<p>With the Romans gone, they thought they would easily win any battle</p> 	<p>Saxon leaders were invited by the Celts to help fight against the Picts</p> 

Important Artefacts



Sutton Hoo



Sutton Hoo is the site of the grave of the Anglo-Saxon king in Suffolk, England. Discovered in 1939, it is one of the largest and best-preserved archaeological finds of the Saxon period in Europe. It's very important to historians because it tells them a great deal about the wealth and traditions of early Anglo-Saxon kings. It also tells them about Anglo-Saxon craftsmanship, technological developments and beliefs.

Lindisfarne



Sometime in the 670s a monk named Cuthbert joined the monastery at Lindisfarne. Cuthbert died in 687 and was buried in a stone coffin inside the main church on Lindisfarne. Eleven years later, the monks opened the tomb and found the body perfectly preserved. They believed it was a sign of his purity and saintliness. Miracles were soon reported at St Cuthbert's shrine and Lindisfarne was quickly established as the major pilgrimage centre in Northumbria. As a result, the monastery grew in power and wealth, attracting grants of land from kings and nobles.

Key Information

Anglo-Saxon Justice

There were seven main methods for keeping law and order during Anglo-Saxon times. These included:

- **Trial by cold water**- The accused was lowered into water by a rope. If they sank, they were innocent. If they floated, they were guilty.
- **Trial by hot water**- The accused put their hand into boiling water. It was bandaged and 3 days later was checked. If the wound was healing cleanly, the accused was innocent.
- **Trial by Blessed bread**- This was done by priests. If they choked on the blessed bread, they were guilty.
- **Hue and cry**- If someone shouted 'Thief!', everyone in the village had to stop what they were doing and chase after the criminal or they'd be fined.
- **Wergild**- Criminals paid compensation to their victims.
- **Tithings**- a group of ten men were made responsible for each other's behaviour. If one of them broke the law, the other members of the tithing had to bring them to court. If they didn't, they would have to pay a fine.
- **Blood Feud**- If someone was murdered, the family had the right to track down and murder the killer. But this led to just more bloodshed.