

**Key Knowledge**

The Anglo-Saxon period spans the time between the end of the Roman occupation in Britain and the Battle of Hastings in 1066 – over 600 years. Initially the pupils examine the evidence as to why the Romans withdrew from Britain in the fifth century, and in particular the growing aggression of Barbarian tribes in Europe which culminated in the Sack of Rome in AD 410.

Pupils then explore who the so-called Anglo-Saxons were, from where they originated and why their invasion and settlement was a relatively straightforward affair. Being mostly farmers (and therefore used to rural rather than urban living) meant that the Anglo-Saxons laid down the pattern of farmsteads, hamlets and villages that still exists in the countryside of many parts of Britain. Pupils explore the evidence that suggests what their homes might have been like as well as the structure of the villages in which they lived.

The seventh century saw the beginning of the transition of Anglo-Saxon life away from paganism towards Christianity, following the missionary work of Augustine. Pupils consider how and why this change occurred and who benefited most (and least) from the growing power of the Church and its alliance with both the king and his aristocrats and noblemen.

Arguably the greatest archaeological find ever in Britain was the discovery in 1939 of the Anglo-Saxon Sutton Hoo ship burial in Suffolk. In a line of enquiry pupils are able to examine some of the priceless artefacts that were unearthed and speculate as to their purpose and presence in the burial ship.

Another very important development during the early Anglo-Saxon period was the emergence of the English language that we are familiar with today. To stress the importance of this, pupils are challenged to pursue their own research enquiry, focusing on the Anglo-Saxon legacy present in the place names of settlements in their area or region of England.

**Prior Learning**

* **Describe** the differences between primary and secondary historical evidence
* **Identify, describe and suggest reasons** for the use of a range of smaller artefacts excavated by archaeologists
* **Describe** one piece of personal secondary historical evidence and **explain** some of the ways in which it tells us about the lives of people at some point in the past.

**Subject Specific Skills**

* **Interpret** both primary and secondary sources of evidence to **describe and explain** what occurred in ad 410 that contributed to the Romans abandoning Britain forever;
* **Describe and explain** why Anglo-Saxon settlers created village communities in the countryside rather than living in the towns that the Romans had vacated when they withdrew from Britain, and **evaluate** the advantages and disadvantages of living in this way compared with occupying the existing towns;
* **Identify and describe** a number of Anglo-Saxon gods and explain why the beliefs and religious practices of the Anglo-Saxons were called pagan;
* **Describe and explain** why Britain converted to Christianity following the visit of Augustine and make a reasoned judgment about what the message from Pope Gregory to King Ethelbert might have been;
* **Recognise and describe** some of the changes that occurred to buildings and ways of life in Anglo-Saxon Britain as a result of the country’s conversion to Christianity, and evaluate the costs and benefits for ordinary people compared with those of lords and noblemen;
* **Identify and describe** the artefacts that were discovered in the Anglo-Saxon ship burial at Sutton Hoo, explain why they are so important to historians and, using these artefacts, reach a judgment as to how the burial would have been constructed and carried out;
* **Identify**, **interpret** and **make a judgment** about the origin of Anglo-Saxon place names in their own area or region of England.

**Year 4 History**

**Knowledge Organiser**

**Anglo-Saxons**

**Key Individual**

Meeting of King Ethlebert and Augustine in 596AD

**Key Vocabulary**

Primary evidence, secondary evidence, Gothics, Barbarians, Christian, Picts, Saxons, Angles, thatched, plundered, religion, pagan, Wodin, Eastre, Saxnet, Tiw, Thor, Frija, King Ethelbert, stained-glass window; Pope Gregory, convert, priory, monk, nobleman, dues, serf, Sutton Hoo, excavation