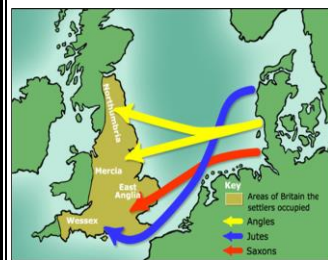




THE ANGLO-SAXONS

WHO WERE THE ANGLO-SAXONS AND HOW DO WE KNOW?



Overview

After the Romans left Britain, it became more vulnerable to invasion. The Anglo-Saxons were made up of people who rowed to Britain across the North Sea from an area that is now northern Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. These people were from three tribes: the Angles, the Saxons, and the Jutes. As both the Angles and the Saxons were the biggest tribes, we call this period the Anglo-Saxon times. The Anglo Saxons settled in Britain and split it into different kingdoms. We will be particularly focusing on the kingdom of Wessex as this is where the town of Lewes was located. Another focus will be key Anglo-Saxon figures, important Anglo-Saxon battles as well as understanding what it was like to live in Anglo-Saxon Britain. This learning will then be used to make a Year 5 documentary about the Anglo-Saxons.

Language of a Historian

Primary Source	Primary sources are the raw materials of history — original documents and objects that were created at the time. Examples include diaries, journals, speeches, interviews, letters, memos, photographs and videos. Obviously, cameras didn't exist when the Anglo-Saxons were around, meaning the primary sources from this period of time are mostly objects dug up by archaeologists!
Secondary Source	A secondary source is a document or recording that discusses a primary source. Examples include textbooks, dictionaries, newspaper and journal articles that analyse a historical event and comment on it. A documentary about the Anglo-Saxons is another example of a secondary source.
wattle and daub	Anglo-Saxon building process. 'Wattle' refers to long sticks which were woven into a wall and 'daub' refers to mud or manure which was smeared over the wattle structure for fill in all of the gaps.
Cyning	The Anglo-Saxon word for king — pronounced <i>koo-ning</i> .
Burhs	Burhs were fortified towns that were created by Alfred the Great. In exchange for free plots of land within the towns, settlers provided a defense force. The burhs were also encouraged to become centres of commerce and local government.
Push and Pull Factors	The factors that drive migration; push factors push people to leave a place and pull factors attract people to a new place. Examples of push factors could be war, lack of resources and lack of work, poor climate. Examples of pull factors could include political stability, a better climate, job opportunities, a better quality of life.
runes	Letters of the alphabet used by Anglo-Saxons (the futhorc alphabet). Comprised of straight lines as these were easier to carve.
Bretwalda	'Over King' or king of several kingdoms. Over the course of Anglo-Saxon domination, several powerful kings claimed this title, declaring that they were the most powerful king.
Hluews	The Anglo-Saxon word for hills or slopes. It is believed that the town name of Lewes came from this word.
Beowulf	An Old English epic poem about a legendary warrior, Beowulf, from Geatland (now Sweden) who travelled to Denmark to slay a monster.

Key Questions

- Who were the Anglo-Saxons and where did they originate from?
- Why did the Saxons invade Britain?
- Who was Alfred the Great?
- What took place at the Battle of Edington?
- Who are archaeologists?
- What artefacts were found in Alfriston?
- What was everyday life like in Anglo-Saxon Britain?
- What are the similarities and differences between Anglo-Saxon Britain and modern-day Britain?
- Who was Harold Godwinson?
- What were the events that took place at the Battle of Stamford Bridge?
- What were the events that took place at the Battle of Hastings?
- How did these events affect Anglo-Saxon Britain?



Anglo-Saxon Timeline

410 AD – The Romans leave Britain unguarded.	477-495 AD – The Kingdom of Wessex is formed.	501-600 AD- The town of Lewes was believed to have been founded in this period by the Anglo-Saxons.	597 AD – St. Augustine arrives in Britain and introduces people to Christianity.	871 AD – The reign of Alfred the Great begins.	May 878 AD- Alfred the Great's army defeats Viking Warriors at the Battle of Edington.	899 AD – The reign of Alfred the Great ends.	January 6 th 1066- Harold Godwinson (Harold II) becomes King of England.	25 th September 1066- King Harold defeated the Viking Army at the Battle of Stamford Bridge.	14 th October 1066 – At the Battle of Hastings, the Normans defeat the Anglo-Saxons.
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Wessex		Wessex was an Anglo-Saxon kingdom in the south of the country. A number of famous Wessex kings have become prominent figures in history, including Alfred the Great.	Where? South of England	Key fact: Wessex no longer existed following King Harold's defeat in 1066.
Danelaw		King Alfred the Great defeated the Vikings in 878 AD, and had them sign a treaty, which governed that the Vikings stick to their own land in north and east England – this section of land became known as the Danelaw.	Where? North and East England	Key Fact: The Vikings did not give up on ruling all of England, and eventually did!
Battle of Edington		At the Battle of Edington, an Anglo-Saxon army led by King Alfred the Great defeated the Great Heathen Army, a collection of Viking warriors led by Guthrum.	When? May 878 AD	Key Fact: Afterwards, Guthrum was baptized and made to accept Alfred as his leader.
Battle of Stamford Bridge		This battle took place in the village of Stamford Bridge, in the east riding of Yorkshire. King Harold of England defeated a Viking army led by Harald Hardrada.	When? 25/09/1066 – widely considered the end of the Viking era	Key Fact: Harold's army was defeated only 3 weeks later at the Battle of Hastings.
Battle of Hastings		3 weeks after the Battle of Stamford Bridge, King Harold was killed by the Normans at the Battle of Hastings. William of Normandy, who became the first Norman King.	Who? William became known as 'William the Conqueror.'	Key Fact: The common belief that Harold was killed by an arrow in the eye is unproven.
Houses		The British forests had all that the Anglo-Saxons needed to build their houses. They were small wooden huts with straw roofs, and one room in which the whole family lived.	How? A hole was placed in the roof to allow smoke from cooking fire to escape.	Key Fact: The biggest house in each village was reserved for the chief of the village.
Religion		Most Anglo-Saxons were pagans, believing in lots of different gods, until the Pope in Rome sent over Augustine as a missionary, in 597AD. Slowly, the country became Christian.	Who? Augustine became the first archbishop of Canterbury	Key Fact: Churches built at this time were normally made of wood.
Food		Anglo-Saxons enjoyed huge feasts. They ate bread, meats such as pork and lamb, vegetables such as carrots and parsnips, and drank milk and beer!	How? Anglo-Saxons grew wheat to make bread and porridge.	Key Fact: Extra animal fat was used to fuel oil lamps.
Clothes		Men wore long-sleeved tunics made of wool or linen, and these were often decorated with patterns. Women would wear an underdress of linen, and an outer pinafore-like dress called a 'peplos.' Shoes were made of leather.	How? Anglo-Saxons made their clothes from natural resources.	Key Fact: Belts were used to hang tools and small weapons from.
Alfriston		Alfriston is a small village in East Sussex that was founded by the Saxons where in 1912, a major Saxon burial ground containing 150 burials was discovered.	When? Late 4 th to early 5 th Century.	Key fact: Findings by archaeologists include glassware, beads, rings, pottery and weapons.

Important Anglo-Saxon rulers



Alfred the Great (849-899 AD)

Alfred the Great was an Anglo-Saxon king of Wessex, who was famous for his victories against the Vikings. Alfred, a great military mind, made strategical changes to ensure that Wessex stood strong, where other kingdoms fell to the Vikings. He eventually established Danelaw to keep Vikings in the east. He was also deeply interested in learning – he translated texts from Latin to English, and began to develop law across the land.

Harold Godwinson (1022AD-1066AD)

Harold Godwinson, often called Harold II, was the last crowned Anglo-Saxon King of England. He had a short reign, lasting from 6th January 1066 until his famous death at hands of the Normans in the Battle of Hastings (on 14th October of the same year). Only weeks before, he had successfully repelled an attack from the Danish leader Harold Hardrada at Stamford Bridge.

