

History: Saxons and Vikings

Year 4 Autumn 1

What was civilisation like in England between 410 and 1066 AD?

Key Dates

- **410:** The Romans leave Britain and it is left unprotected without rulers.
- **450-550:** The Saxons, Jutes and Angles arrive from Germany and settle all over England.
- **By 700:** England is split into seven Anglo-Saxon kingdoms (Northumbria, East Anglia, Essex, Sussex, Kent, Wessex and Mercia).
- **793:** The Vikings raid Lindisfarne and arrive in England. Battles commence with the Saxons.
- **886:** King Alfred and Guthrum create the Danelaw.
- **937:** King Athelstan defeats enemies at The Battle of Brunanburh and becomes The King of all of England.



Key Facts

- The Anglo-Saxons were actually three separate groups of people (Angles, Saxons and Jutes) who united in England.
- The 'Saxons' originally migrated from northern Germany and Denmark.
- The Vikings were a group of people who migrated from Scandinavia (Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland).
- There were seven major Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in England (Northumbria, East Anglia, Essex, Sussex, Kent, Wessex and Mercia).
- The Anglo-Saxons were very religious and encouraged the growth of Christianity across Britain.

Key Vocabulary

Migration	Movement from one place to another.
Invasion	Attacking a country or region with an armed force.
Christianity	The religion based on the person and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, or its beliefs and practices.
Unify	To become united or made whole.
Monastery	A place where monks live and worship.
Kingdom	A country, state, or territory ruled by a king or queen.
Perspective	A point of view or an opinion.
Regression	Returning a less developed state.
Dark Ages	The period in western Europe between the fall of the Roman Empire and the Battle of Hastings in 1066.



Website Links



Enquiry Questions

1. What happened when the Romans left England?
2. What was Anglo-Saxon England like?
3. Why did The Vikings invade Anglo-Saxon England?
4. Is it fair to describe the Vikings as vicious raiders?
5. How did England change during this time?
6. How important was King Athelstan in shaping England?

Why don't you...

- Build a model of a Viking or Saxon artefact?
- Draw a picture/create a model of a Viking longship?
- Work out if your house would have been in a Viking or Saxon settlement?

Historical Skills

Chronology:

Use timelines accurately to plot recent history and periods of time and explain their reasons for positions on the timeline.

Historical knowledge and interpretation:

Explain how events from the past has helped shape our lives. Appreciate that wars have happened on a very long time ago and they are often associated with invasion, conquering or religious differences.

Historical enquiry:

Give more than one reason to support a historical argument.

Historical Concepts

Change and continuity- There were lots of things going on at any one time in the past. Some changed rapidly while others remained relatively continuous. We can look at these at face value and consider things that were continuous and explain why, and things that were changing and explain why.

Cause and consequence- This concept considers the 'how and why' of history. The causes look for 'what were the actions/beliefs/circumstances...?' that led to a change or event that we examine, and then the consequences of these.

Peasantry- A developed knowledge of peasantry allows pupils to discuss and articulate their knowledge and understanding of hierarchy and culture throughout the different historical periods they have studied.