

Anglo Saxons

How did the Anglo Saxons invasion change life in Britain?

History

Knowledge organiser

Teaching focus: Identify how aspects of life have changed during a time period

Learning Lens: Impact on Life in Britain

Class: Year 5

Previous Knowledge

Stone Age
Roman Britain

Project Hook or 'Wow' memory

Make armour and prepare for Battle

Learning Steps

Key Knowledge (answers)

Who were the Anglo-Saxon invaders?

Around AD400, the Romans that had been ruling in Britain left. This meant that the strong armies who had been fending off foreign invaders were no longer there and the invasion attempts by tribes from different places became successful.

New invaders arrived and began to settle in Britain. Collectively these new settlers became known as the Anglo-Saxons, although the tribes came from a number of different countries. Many wanted

Why did the Anglo-Saxon want to settle in Britain?

There were lots of reasons that the Anglo-Saxons wanted to be settlers in Britain. Some of the reasons were pull factors, that 'pulled' them to the new land because of good things about Britain. Others were push factors, that 'pushed' them away from their own countries and made them want to find new places to live.

How was Anglo-Saxon Britain ruled?

Each group of settlers in Anglo-Saxon times had their own ruler. Some of the rulers became a king ('cyning') with his own kingdom to rule. Over time several large main kingdoms were established, and the most powerful of these were Northumbria, Wessex and Mercia. In Anglo-Saxon times, the king was the most important person in each kingdom, and some of the kings liked to claim that they were 'bretwalda', or over-king of all Britain.

How did the Anglo-Saxons find out about Christianity?

Many people in Britain knew about Christianity from Roman times, before the Anglo-Saxons invaded. However, when the Anglo-Saxons came they brought with them their own religious beliefs. The Christian religion was only then practised in parts of the country where the Anglo-Saxons had not settled. The religion brought by the Anglo-Saxons was called **paganism**. The Pope, who was head of the Christian church in Rome, sent a bishop called Augustine on a mission to teach the Anglo-Saxons about Christianity. Other missionaries helped too, and over time lots of

What was the mystery of Sutton Hoo?

In Suffolk there is place called Sutton Hoo, where there are eleven mysterious mounds of earth. Archaeologists were interested in the mounds because they look like they might have had people buried in them long ago. In 1939, archaeologists were given permission by the owner to dig up the largest of the mounds. What they discovered was amazing! Inside the mound they found the remains of a huge wooden ship. Although the wood had rotted over time, the shape of the ship was very clear to see. The ship had been used as part of somebody's burial.

How did the Anglo-Saxons write things down?

When the Anglo-Saxons first came to Britain, they used their own alphabet called the futhorc alphabet. The letters were called runes and were all made up of straight lines. Straight lines made it easier to carve the letters onto wood, stone or metal (there was no paper then!).

Each rune had a name, such as 'ash tree' or 'ice'. Many of the runes look similar to some of the capital letters in our alphabet.

The key skills we want pupils to use during this topic:

To gain an overview of the significant people and events during the Anglo-Saxon period in Britain.

To contrast everyday life during the Anglo-Saxon period with modern British lifestyles.

To consider broader historical themes of invading and settling before a time when Britain was unified under a single monarch.

Key vocabulary

invaders

People who attack and try to take land from other people

raiders

People who attack, then take what they find away with them

Paganism

The religion of the Anglo-Saxons who believed in many gods

Christianity

The religion of the Romans, based on the teachings of Jesus and belief in one God.

conversion

change

monastery

Building where monks live

society

The people who live in a place and their way of life

Final Written Outcome

PowerPoint to show learned facts

Alternative Outcome:

Mind map – scribed where needed.

