

Knowledge Organiser

Year: 5 Subject: History Unit: What was life in Britain like, during the time of the Anglo Saxons and Scots?

Overview:

During this sequence of learning, pupils will find out about Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons and the Scots. They will find out why Britain was invaded and how it impacted on people's lives. They will also find out about resistance to attacks from the Vikings and the role of King Alfred. They will find out about life during these times using evidential source material.

What should I already know?

- Pre-history is divided into Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age, reflecting the materials used to create weapons and tools.
- Neolithic period saw largest change from hunter gatherers to settlers and farmers.
- The Celts infiltrated Britain between 500 and 100 BC.
- The Romans invaded Britain in 55 BC and left in AD 410.
- There was British resistance from individuals such as Boudicca.
- We can find out about the Roman civilisation from archaeological evidence that was found.

Historical Skills:

- Find and analyse a range of primary and secondary evidence from the past.
- Order an increasing number of movements/dates on a timeline.
- Describe the key features of the past including everyday lives of men, women and children.
- Consider ways of checking the accuracy of interpretations from the past.

What will I know by the end of the unit?

- In the AD400s when the Roman rule was coming to an end, Britain was being attacked. The Picts and Scots were attacking from the North and the Anglo-Saxons from the sea. Without the Roman Army to defend Britain, it was eventually invaded.
- Anglo-Saxons came to Britain for many reasons: to farm, to fight, for the precious metals and because some of them were invited to help protect Britain.
- They settled in many places which is why many towns and villages have Anglo-Saxon names today.
- In 1939, in Suffolk a land owner discovered the richest collection of Anglo-Saxon finds ever discovered. Among the finds were a helmet, shield and sword as well as coins



Vocabulary:

culture	A pattern of behaviour shared by a society, or group of people.
invade	To enter as an enemy, by force, in order to conquer or plunder.
resistance	An act or instance of opposing.
settlement	An area where people lived.
society	A community or group of people having common traditions, institutions, and interests.
social justice	A concept of fair and just relations between the individual and society, e.g. by distribution of wealth or opportunities for personal activity.
religious	What you believe about human beings' relationship to a higher power (or God).
primary source	Immediate, first-hand accounts of a topic, e.g. newspaper reports, photos, diaries, videos and artefacts.
secondary source	Information created later by someone who did not experience first-hand or participate in the events, e.g. scholarly books and articles.

which gave us evidence of the dates. This evidence allows us to make assumptions over who may have been buried there.

- People's lives changed from Paganism to Christianity in this time - people started to visit churches. People felt that everything that happened was a result of God and therefore the Church ruled their daily lives.
- Around the end of the 8th Century the Vikings started to carry out many raids which started the struggle between the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings for control of Britain. The Saxons tried to stop the Vikings invading by giving them gold and land but they took this and attacked anyway. This eventually led to the formation of Danelaw.
- King Alfred was the king between 886AD and 899AD. He is often remembered as Alfred the Great as he was very well liked. However, as he apparently asked a man called Asser to write only positive comments about him it is obviously biased.
- There were 6 main methods of keeping law and order in Anglo-Saxon times. These included trials which involved the accused doing something painful. If they healed quickly, they were considered to be innocent as the Saxons believed that God would not let innocent people suffer.
- These times were referred to as the Dark Ages because the country has been seen as going backwards since the Romans had been in control. However, this can be disputed as there were also elements that you wouldn't describe as being dark such as the building of new churches and the development of kingdoms which became the centre of great art and learning.



Early Anglo-Saxon houses were built almost entirely of wood meaning evidence of them is hardly ever found. However, there has been evidence of a settlement found in West Stow.



Map showing where the Saxons first settled

