

Our History • Anglo Saxons and Vikings

Key Learning Question: How and why did the Anglo Saxons and Vikings settle in Britain?



Crucial Knowledge

- The Romans left Britain in around 400AD. After the Romans left Britain, the Anglo Saxons (from North West Europe) invaded. The Vikings (from Denmark in Scandinavia) also came to Britain. After a long time and many battles, both the Vikings and Anglo Saxons lived in Britain at the same time.
- Vikings were expert boat builders and sailors. They invented long boats that could move quickly through the water, carry over 100 people, and sail up rivers and on to beaches.
- The Anglo-Saxons were not united and did not have one leader. They lived in tribes and formed 5 main kingdoms around Britain: Northumbria, Mercia, Wessex, Kent and East Anglia.
- Sutton Hoo is an Anglo-Saxon burial site in Suffolk, England. It is believed to belong to an Anglo-Saxon King but we cannot know for sure. A huge ship was discovered and inside it was filled with treasures.
- One of the first Viking raids on Britain was at Lindisfarne, Northumberland. We can learn about this event through the Anglo Saxon Chronicles. Vikings were pagans which means their main belief is that nature is sacred. The Vikings burned down a Christian monastery as part of their violent raid.
- Vikings lived in structures called longhouses, mainly out of wood and had a turf roof to keep the warmth in. Between 30 and 50 people would live together in one house.
- When important Vikings died, they were buried with all their possessions on a ship. The ship was either buried or sent out to sea and set on fire.



Key Vocabulary

- Scandinavia: Region of Northern Europe where Vikings originated.
- longship: A long, narrow warship powered by both rowers and sails
- raid: A rapid surprise attack
- kingdom: Any territory ruled by a king or queen
- burial: The action or practice of burying a dead body
- ritual: A ceremony following a set series of actions
- pillage: To rob and steal using violence
- pagan: A person who does not follow an organized religion or believe in an all-powerful God

Big Ideas:

- Chronology • Society • Beliefs
- Technology & Evolution • Conflict



Important People & Places



Alfred the Great

West Saxon then Anglo Saxon king from 871 until 899. He spent several years fighting Viking invasions and then made an agreement so that the North of England became Viking territory.



Basil Brown

Archaeologist who discovered Sutton Hoo, which is one of Britain's most significant archaeological sites. It is full of well-preserved treasures. Brown made the discovery in 1939.



Lindesfarne

Island off the North East coast of England and scene of an early Viking raid on a monastery.



We Are Building Our Knowledge From

- Stone Age to Iron Age (Y3)
- The Romans in Britain (Y4)

This will help when we learn about

- Immigration Through Time (Y6)

Timeline

410	449	793	886	900	954	1066
Romans leave Britain	Angles and Saxons first arrive in Britain	Vikings attack Lindesfarne	Alfred agrees a treaty with Vikings	Vikings establish rule of Scotland	Last Viking king of York is forced out	Harold, the last Anglo-Saxon king, is defeated by William the Conqueror