

## The Anglo Saxons

*This unit builds on previous learning in Geography: Settlers and Settlements and continues on from Year 3's Roman in Britain topic.*

*The children will learn how the first settlers arrived around 450 AD, how they lived, who their rulers were and about Anglo-Saxon beliefs. They will construct a timeline of events leading up to the Norman Conquest in 1066. They will also find out, by looking at the work of archaeologists, how we know about the Anglo-Saxons.*

### Background information

The **Anglo-Saxons** were a group of farmer-warriors who lived in **Britain** over a thousand years ago. Made up of three **tribes** who came over from **Europe**, they were called the **Angle**, **Saxon**, and **Jute** tribes. They were fierce people, who fought many battles during their rule of Britain – often fighting each other! The Anglo-Saxons first tried invading in the 4th century, but the Roman army were quick to send them home again! Years later – around 450AD – the Ancient Romans left Britain, the Anglo-Saxons seized their chance and this time they were successful! They left their homes in Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark and sailed over to Britain on wooden boats. Many of them were farmers before they came to Britain and it's thought they were on the look-out for new land as floodwaters back home had made it almost impossible to farm.

Many of today's Christian traditions came from the Anglo-Saxons, but they weren't always Christians. When they first came over from Europe they were Pagans, worshipping lots of different gods. It wasn't until the **Pope** in **Rome** sent over a monk called **Augustine** – to England in 597AD, that the Anglo-Saxons became Christians.

### Knowledge and Understanding

In this unit pupils will learn...

- About the reasons for the Saxon invasion
- To explore the evidence we have for the Saxon way of life at different levels of society.
- To gain an understanding of changes such as the coming of Christianity and the move away from paganism
- About the reign of King Alfred - why he is thought of 'great'
- To understand the relationship between the Saxons and the Vikings
- To explore historical sources and interpretations.
- To learn about some social history eg Saxon justice
- To look in more depth at sources and interpretations eg How 'Dark' were the Dark Ages?

### Enquiry skills and Key concepts

- To develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history.
- To note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms.
- To ask and start to answer historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance.
- To start to construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information.
- To understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.
- To begin to understand how The Anglo Saxons have shaped this nation and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world.

### Key Vocabulary:

- Angles:** One of the main groups who settled in England. They came from Denmark and northern Germany.
- Saxons:** One of the main groups who settled in England. They came from northern Germany.
- Jutes:** One of the smaller main groups who settled in England. They came from Denmark.
- Settlers:** A person who moves into a new area and makes it their home.
- Invaders:** People who take over a place by force.
- Conquerors:** People who invade and take control of a place
- Raid:** A sudden violent attack on a place
- Burh:** defended towns that are characterised by a planned, ordered layout, sometimes including a regular grid of streets.
- Pagans:** People who practices a religion that worships many gods
- Sutton Hoo:** An archaeological site in Suffolk, England, where a ship-burial was discovered.
- Weregild:** Under Anglo-Saxon law, this was money paid to the family and the King for committing crimes against someone else's family.
- Alfred the Great:** An Anglo-Saxon King who fought back against the Vikings and managed to control most of England. He championed education and reorganised the military to make it more effective.