

Grange Park Primary School Year 5 Autumn 2 History

Striving for Civilisation: Anglo-Saxons and Vikings 449 AD - 1066 AD

Timeline	
410 AD	Last Romans withdraw from Britain
450 AD	Angles and Saxons invade Britain
455 AD	Kingdom of Kent formed
477 AD	Kingdom of Sussex formed
495 AD	Kingdom of Wessex formed
527 AD	Kingdom of Essex formed
547 AD	Kingdom of Northumbria formed
575 AD	Kingdom of East Anglia formed
586 AD	Kingdom of Mercia formed
787 AD	First recorded Viking raid (on Dorset)
793 AD	Vikings attacked Lindisfarne monastery
1066 AD	Battle of Hastings - Normans defeat the Anglo-Saxons



Key People/Places	
Edward the Confessor	Penultimate Saxon King of England
Alfred the Great	One of the greatest Anglo-Saxon kings. After years of fighting, Alfred made peace with the Vikings.
Athelstan	Alfred the Great's grandson. Reigned between 925 and 939 AD and was the very first 'King of all England'.
Lindisfarne	The location of one of the first land Viking sightings where many monks were attacked.
York	The Vikings had a large settlement here and named it 'Jorvik'.
Sutton Hoo	The burial site of an unidentified Anglo-Saxon king in Suffolk, England.

Who were the Anglo-Saxons?

The Anglo-Saxons were a mix of tribes from Denmark, Northern Germany and the Netherlands. The three biggest were the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes.

Some Anglo-Saxons were warriors who enjoyed fighting. They thought the Britons were weak and easy to defeat once the Romans withdrew. Others came peacefully to find land to farm.

They lived in small village communities, farmed the land and left limited historical sources (which is why this period is given the name 'The Dark Ages').

Why did the Vikings raid Britain?

The Vikings were famous for sailing huge distances from their homeland in Scandinavia to raid, plunder and find farming land.

They took control of several Anglo-Saxon kingdoms but eventually made a peace agreement with the Anglo-Saxons living mainly in the west and the Vikings in an area to the west known as the Danelaw.

Key Vocabulary	
Dark Ages	A term used to describe the Middle Ages due to the lack of written sources about the time.
kingdom	An area of land ruled by a king or queen.
monastery	A place where monks live, work and pray.
paganism	The religion of early Anglo-Saxon people. Paganism is a polytheistic religion.
polytheistic	Worshipping and believing in more than one god.
longship	A fast, light and easy-to-move ship used for raiding.
Danegold	A tax imposed in Anglo-Saxon England during the reign of King Ethelred to stop Vikings from attacking the coast and invading.
pillage	Using violence to steal and loot from a place of interest.
treaty	An agreement between two or more countries or kingdoms.
migration	Movement of people from one location to another to stay there.

