

Lutley

Primary School

Learning, Caring, Aiming High - Together

Year 5

The Anglo-Saxons  
and The Scots

Builds on Knowledge and Skills

In Year 4, you learnt about the Roman Empire and its impact on Britain. The last Roman soldiers left Britain in 410. New people came in ships across the North Sea: they were known as the Anglo-Saxons. The Anglo-Saxon age in Britain was from around AD410 to 1066. They were a mix of tribes from Germany (The Saxons were German-Dutch), Denmark (The Angles were southern Danish) and the Jutes (Northern Danish). The land they settled in was 'Angle-land', or England.

Books, texts, primary and secondary sources you may use:

- BBC Bitesize – Angle Saxons
- Nat Geo Kids – Anglo Saxons
- BBC Teach – History KS2 – The Anglo Saxons
- Beowulf (Usborne) – Rob Lloyd and Victor Tavares
- Anglo-Saxon Boy – Tony Bradman
- The History Detectives Investigates Anglo-Saxons – Neil Tonge

Suggested family experience

- Visit the British Museum where you can see many artefacts discovered at Sutton Hoo. Details can be found [here](#) of how to visit.
- Alternatively, you can take a virtual tour of Room 41 to see the artefacts on screen by clicking [here](#)

National Curriculum Links

Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons:

- Roman withdrawal from Britain in c. AD 410 and the fall of the western Roman Empire.
- Scots invasions from Ireland to north Britain (now Scotland)
- Anglo-Saxon invasions, settlements and kingdoms: place names and village life.
- Anglo-Saxon art and culture.

Local History Links

St John's Church in Halesowen town centre stands on the site of an even earlier Anglo-Saxon Church.



Vocabulary you will use:

| Word       | Definition   |
|------------|--|
| allegiance | Support of a person or group   |
| Angles     | A tribe from southern Denmark  |
| Bretwalda  | King of all Britain  |
| Christians | A believer in the religion of Christianity   |
| conflict   | A struggle between two people or groups  |
| conquered  | Took control by force  |
| Jutes      | A tribe from northern Denmark  |
| kingdom    | A territory ruled by a king or queen   |
| mythology  | A set of stories or beliefs – some are exaggerated or fictitious                                   |
| pagan      | Religious beliefs other than those of the other world religions. Some pagans believed in many gods |
| Saxons     | A German-Dutch tribe   |
| Sutton Hoo | A place in the county of Suffolk, where important Anglo-Saxon artefacts were found                 |
| tribe      | A group of people who come from a particular region and stay together as a group                   |
| Vikings    | A group of Scandinavian people who raided and settled many parts of Europe                         |

Quick Summary



The Anglo-Saxons were made up of different tribes, who invaded Britain after the Roman army left. The land they conquered was split into small kingdoms and the new invaders brought their own building methods, religious beliefs and language. During their rule, Christianity spread as monks from Rome came to England. Living in almost constant conflict, the Anglo-Saxons ruled large parts of England until 1066. This was the year that England was conquered by William, Duke of Normandy, after his victory at the Battle of Hastings.

Main Events

- 410: Roman army left Britain
- 597: St Augustine brought Christianity to Britain from Rome
- 878: Alfred the Great was victorious at the battle at Edington
- 927: Kingdom of England created
- 1939: Important discovery made at Sutton Hoo



Click [here](#) to find out what eventually happened to The Anglo Saxons when the Normans invaded.

Questions we'll ask you throughout the unit to check your knowledge and understanding.

Explain how the kingdom of England was created during Anglo-Saxon times.

Describe how Anglo-Saxon beliefs change over time.

Explain the Scot invasion from Ireland to North Britain.

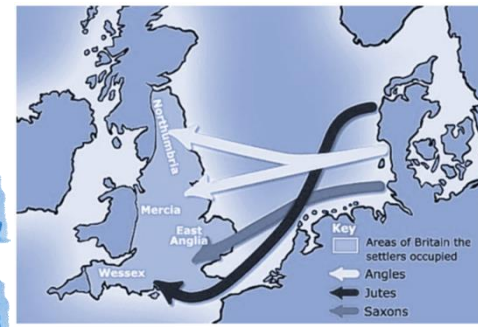
Describe Anglo-Saxon art and culture.



## Who were the Anglo-Saxons and the Scots?

After years of stability and peace under Roman rule, the collapse of the Roman Empire brought chaos and conflict to Britain.

Gradually, the Anglo-Saxons took control and by the ninth century, ruled over **four main kingdoms**:



In 927 these four kingdoms were united under the rule of one king, King Athelstan, and the Kingdom of England was created.

The Celtic tribes who had lived in harmony with the Romans found themselves under attack from northern tribes (the Picts and Scots). They asked the Anglo-Saxons to protect them from these fierce warriors. The Anglo-Saxons agreed, in return, for land that they could settle on. They wanted to farm and make new homes.



Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to find out who the Anglo-Saxons were.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to see when the Anglo-Saxons came to Britain and why.



In the AD 400s, towards the end of the **Roman rule** (you learnt about the Romans in Year 4), Britain was being attacked by the **Picts** and **Scots** from the north and the Anglo-Saxons from the sea. The Romans had built forts along the coast to fight off the sea-raiders and Hadrian's wall defended the north.

## Kingdoms and Settlements

Early Anglo Saxon Britain was made up of many different tribes with their own leaders, chiefs and kings.

These separate kingdoms were frequently in conflict with each other, and by the beginning of the seventh century, there were seven major Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms. They included Northumbria, Mercia, East Angles, Essex, Wessex, Sussex and Kent.



Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to see how Anglo-Saxon Britain was ruled.



The Anglo-Saxons took control of most of Britain. They settled in England in places near to rivers or the sea, which could be easily reached by boat. One of the places they settled in was Tonbridge, in Kent. Tonbridge was an ideal place to settle as it was on the main track from Hastings to London and has a river.

Names of some towns and villages we have today come from the Anglo-Saxons. Some were named after the chieftain (leader) and end with 'folk' or 'ing'. For example, the people who lived in the 'village' of Hastings were 'Haesta's people'.

Some name endings describe what was there:

- ham means village (e.g. Birmingham)
- ford means river crossing (e.g. Stratford)
- ton means farm (e.g. Middleton)
- bury means fortified place (e.g. Banbury).
- ley means forest clearing (e.g. Henley)

## Conquest

There were centuries of conflict in Britain after the Roman army left Britain. The Jutes, Angles and Saxons all invaded Britain.



Alfred the Great  
(King of Wessex)

By the ninth century, when three of the four main kingdoms had fallen into the hands of the Vikings, only the kingdom of Wessex remained to resist them.



Eric Bloodaxe  
(Viking King)

During the Dark Ages, Scotland was not called 'Scotland', it was called 'Pictland' after the Picts who lived there. Originally the Scots lived in Ireland however some of them came to live in Pictland during the Dark Ages. Pictland was eventually taken over by the Scots and was renamed 'Scotland' after them. It means 'Land of the Scots'.



Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to learn more about him.

In 878, Alfred the Great, the King of Wessex won a famous battle at Edington. The victory was the beginning of a fightback against the Vikings.

The Picts and Scots lived north of Hadrian's Wall. While the Anglo-Saxons were invading from the sea, they attacked from the north. A history book called the 'Anglo-Saxon Chronicle' tells of a king called Vortigern who asked for help against the Picts. He invited two Anglo-Saxons called Hengist and Horsa to Britain in AD449. He paid them and their men to fight the Picts, but instead they turned on Vortigern and seized his kingdom.

What started as small raiding parties by the Vikings became an almost total conquest of the Anglo-Saxons by the Vikings.

The Vikings were defeated in 954, when their King, Eric Bloodaxe, was killed.

## Beliefs

In Roman Britain, which you learnt about in Year 4, many people had been Christians. But the early Anglo-Saxons were not Christians, they were pagans. This means that they worshipped

After the Romans left, Christianity continued in places where Anglo-Saxons did not settle, like Wales and the west. However, when the Anglo Saxons came to Britain they brought their own gods and beliefs with them.

Over time their beliefs changed, and many Anglo-Saxons were converted to Christianity.



The Gosforth Cross in St Marys Church, Gosforth has carvings showing scenes from Anglo-Saxon mythology.



Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to learn about Anglo-Saxon beliefs.

In Year 3, you learnt about the Ancient Greeks. Like the Greeks, the Anglo-Saxons believed in many gods and had many superstitions.

These four Anglo-Saxon gods gave their names to the days of the week that we still use today:

- **Tiw** the god of war became **Tuesday**
- **Woden** the king of the gods became **Wednesday**
- **Thunor** the god of thunder became **Thursday**
- **Frige** the goddess of love became **Friday**

## Art and Culture

The Anglo-Saxons were great craft workers. They made intricate jewellery, musical instruments and homemade toys and games.

Children played with homemade toys such as rag dolls and carved, wooden toys, as well as games that used counters and dice.



As men enjoyed sporting pastimes, like wrestling, weight lifting/ using heavy rocks and horse rearing, sports kept them fit for work and strong for war

The Saxons liked to play with words too. They amused themselves by telling clever riddles.

Anglo-Saxon jewellers made brooches, beads and gold ornaments.



### The Story of Beowulf

It was written down around 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> Century but, long before, it was told around a fire.



Click [here](#) or scan the QR code and scroll to the bottom of the page. Here you can watch a video to learn about the artefacts that were found at Sutton Hoo and what they tell us about Anglo-Saxon beliefs.



They were keen storytellers. They would gather together in feasting halls and tell thrilling stories. Often their stories were accompanied by music played on an instrument called a lyre.

