

YEAR 5: SUMMER 2 – TIME COP: LEARNING FROM THE PAST

HISTORY: INVADERS AND SETTLERS (The Anglo-Saxons and Vikings)

CHRONOLOGICAL UNDERSTANDING: BRITISH HISTORY 400AD-1066AD

To develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British history:

Anglo-Saxon	Viking	Denmark	Norway	Sweden	Lindisfarne	Sutton Hoo	Danelaw
Alfred the Great	King Harold II	Battle of Hastings	Longship	Bearded axe	Odin	Thor	Loki
Freyr and Freya	Asgard	Midgard	Valhalla	longhouse			

BRITAIN AFTER THE ROMANS:

The last **Roman** soldiers left Britain in 410AD. The remaining Britons were mainly **Celts**.

This meant there was plenty of space for **tribes** from neighbouring countries to come and **settle**. 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.

The major tribes that came to Britain were the **Angles** (from Denmark), the **Saxons** (from Germany) and the **Jutes** (Denmark). It is from them that we get the term '**Anglo-Saxon**' (which came to mean anyone who lived in Britain) and the word England - it used to be Angle-land, where the Angles lived!



THE VIKING AGE:

The Viking age in European history was from about **700AD to 1100**. During this period many Vikings left their homelands in **Scandinavia** and travelled by longboat to other countries, like **Britain** and **Ireland**.

When the people of Britain first saw the Viking **longboats** they came down to the shore to welcome them. However, the Vikings fought the local people, stealing from churches and burning buildings to the ground.

The people of Britain called the invaders '**Danes**', but they came from Norway and Sweden as well as Denmark.



THINKING POINT:

Why do you think other tribes wanted to settle in Britain?

How many years were the Anglo-Saxons living in Britain before the Viking invasion?



TO UNDERSTAND AND DESCRIBE: ANGLO-SAXON AND VIKING LIFE IN BRITAIN

Anglo-Saxon Lifestyle:

Anglo-Saxon homes

The Anglo-Saxons didn't like the stone houses and streets left by the Romans, so they built their own villages. They looked for land which had lots of **natural resources** like food, water and wood to build and heat their homes, and Britain's forests had everything they needed. They surrounded each village with a high fence to protect cattle from wild animals like foxes and wolves, and to keep out their enemies, too! We know what Anglo-Saxon houses were like from excavations of Anglo-Saxon villages. They were small wooden huts with a straw roof, and inside was just one room in which the whole family lived, ate, slept and socialised together.



Anglo-Saxon clothing

Anglo-Saxons made their own clothes out of **natural** materials. The men wore long-sleeved tunics made of wool or linen, often decorated with a pattern. Their trousers were woollen and held up by a leather belt from which they could hang their tools such as knives and pouches. Shoes were usually made out of leather and fastened with laces or toggles. The women would wear an under-dress of linen or wool and an outer-dress like a pinafore called a "**peplos**" which was held onto the underlayer by two **brooches** on the shoulders. Anglo-Saxon women loved jewelry and often wore beaded necklaces, bracelets and rings, too!



THINKING POINT:

Would life have been comfortable as an Anglo-Saxon?



Anglo-Saxon society and rulers

The Anglo-Saxons were the main peoples on the island of Britain from **550 to 1066**.

At first the lands were divided up into many small kingdoms, but eventually certain kingdoms began to dominate. The first kingdom to dominate was **Northumbria** in the early 600s, a kingdom to the north that was settled by the Angles.

Then the Kingdom of **Mercia** rose to power in the 700s.

Finally, in the 800s the Kingdom of **Wessex** conquered the land. The King of Wessex was considered the king of all England.

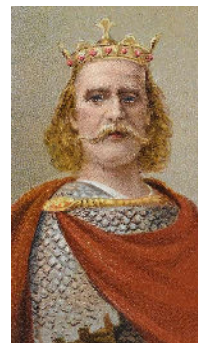


There were many kings of Wessex, but two of the most important were:



Alfred the Great

- Prince Alfred became king in 871.
- Alfred continually battled the Vikings.
- In 886, Alfred negotiated a treaty with them. England was divided in half with the Vikings getting the north and the east and the Saxons ruling the south and the west.
- King Alfred became known as Alfred the Great.
- He did a lot to establish the Kingdom of England.
- He built up the borders to protect his people from the Vikings.
- He also established laws, education, a navy, and reformed the English economy.



Harold II

- Harold II was the last king of the Anglo-Saxon period in England.
- He fought back against the last attempted Viking invasion.
- Harold met the Vikings at Stamford Bridge, where he won an overwhelming victory.
- In the same year, 1066, the Normans (led by William of Normandy) invaded England.
- Harold fought with them at the Battle of Hastings, but was killed.
- The story of the Battle of Hastings can be seen in the Bayeux tapestry.



THINKING POINT:

What makes these kings so important?



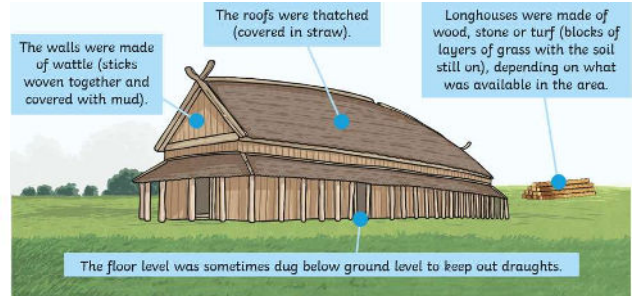
Who were the Vikings?

The **Vikings** came from all around **Scandinavia** (where Norway, Sweden and Denmark are today). They were the most powerful between the years **790-1100 BC**. The Vikings were amazing ship-builders and their longboats **voyaged** all around the coast of Europe and even across the ocean to America! Some of the voyages were violent **raids**, where gangs of warriors would attack towns and villages along the coast or by rivers. They would kill anyone who fought back, and carry off treasure and slaves. Other voyages were more peaceful, as Vikings explored new lands to **settle** and **trade** in.



A small island called **Lindisfarne** was one of the first places in Britain to be attacked by Viking raiders. It is also known as 'Holy island' as there is only a church built on it and, in Anglo-Saxon times, a group of monks lived there. In **793** Viking **raiders** attacked the **monastery** at **Lindisfarne**. They killed several of the monks, set buildings alight, and stole valuable items.

However, the Vikings were not all bloodthirsty raiders. Some came to fight, but others came to Britain to live peacefully. Their longships brought families who settled in **villages**. There were farmers, who kept animals and grew crops, and skilful craft workers, who made beautiful **metalwork** and wooden carvings. Everyone lived together in a large home called a **longhouse**.



THINKING POINT:

Do you think the Vikings deserve to be thought of as violent raiders?



Viking Warriors

Scandinavia was overpopulated and was quite a poor country, so the Vikings raided other countries to become wealthy and establish new lands. Areas of Scandinavia were ruled by **Chieftains**. The Chieftains were supported by warriors who would fight in battle for them; warriors expected land and treasures as a reward for combat.

A warrior was equipped with:

- A **shield** made of wood and covered with leather.
- An **axe**. Made with heavy sharp blades, they could easily smash through helmets or cut off limbs.
- A **helmet**. We often see Viking helmets depicted with horns but these were only for religious ceremonies and not for battle as sometimes portrayed.
- A **sword**. They were considered the 'heroes weapon' because they were very expensive. They were usually a prized possession and were sometimes given names such as 'Fierce' and 'Leg Biter'.



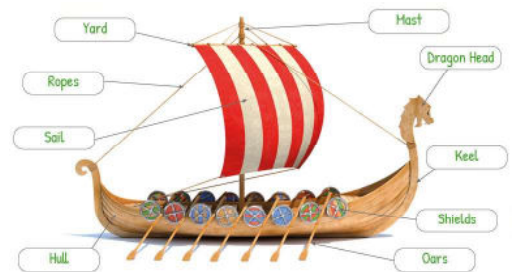
Longships

Vikings travelled on **vessels** called Longships. The ships were super advanced during the Viking age, a skilled **navigator** could even reach America on one!

Longships were narrow and light making them quick to **manoeuvre** through water. They could even be carried by Vikings over land, allowing them to sneak up on an enemy approaching from a different direction. They had a shallow **hull** so they could sail in any type of water such as oceans or rivers. Because of this shallow **draft**, Longships could sail on water as shallow as 1 metre. They could also perform beach landings, allowing the Vikings to slide up onto the sand and leap ashore.

Longships had a single **sail** in the centre of the boat, often shown striped in red and white. Sails were made from wool or linen and then dyed red. In situations of low wind, the crew would row the boat using the oars.

Longships had a dragon's head at the front of the boat to intimidate enemies. This dragon head was also said to scare off evil spirits, ensuring a safe voyage. Longships were also double ended, this meant they didn't have to turn around, they could just reverse. This was much more manoeuvrable.



THINKING POINT:

Why were the Vikings so successful when raiding?



Religious beliefs

The Vikings believed that there were lots of different gods who lived in a place called **Asgard** (the human world was called **Midgard**). In Asgard, Odin's home was called **Valhalla** and Vikings believed that if they died fighting in battle, they would get to spend eternity feasting in Valhalla with him. Each one was responsible for a different thing, like war, travel or home. In stories, the gods were not perfect. They had human qualities and weaknesses such as jealousy and greed.



Sutton Hoo:

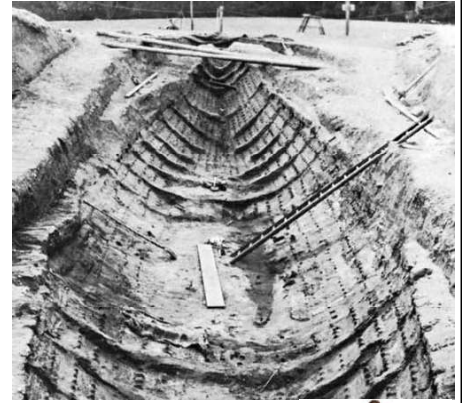
Sutton Hoo is the site of the grave of an Anglo-Saxon king in **Suffolk**, England. Discovered in **1939**, it is one of the largest and best-preserved archaeological finds of the Saxon period in Europe. It is very important to historians because it tells them a great deal about the wealth and traditions of early Anglo-Saxon kings. It also tells them about Anglo-Saxon craftsmanship, technological developments, and beliefs. Archaeologists have also found several smaller **burial** sites in the same area.

On the site, archaeologists discovered that a huge wooden ship had been buried there in the 600s. The wood had rotted away, but it had left an impression in the soil showing the shape of the ship. The custom of ship burials was common with people from northern Europe. There are similar Viking remains in Denmark and Sweden. A hut had been built in the middle of the ship. Inside it was a coffin and many priceless treasures. The Anglo-Saxons believed that this was the best way for a powerful person to reach the afterlife when he had died.

The treasures found by archaeologists inside the ship included armor, weapons, ornaments, jewelry, silver and gold tableware, musical instruments, and gold coins. The coins, from the 620s, helped to date the burial.

The site also contained objects that showed that people in England during Anglo-Saxon times must have traded with the rest of Europe. The objects included a large silver dish made in Byzantium (in what is now Turkey) in about 500AD and a set of silver bowls from the Mediterranean.

Sutton Hoo may be the burial site of Redwald, a powerful Saxon king who ruled East Anglia and possibly some areas farther north in the late 500s and early 600s. He died in about 616.



THINKING POINT:

Why is Sutton Hoo so important to archeologists?

What did they find there?



EXS:

Were the Vikings blood-thirsty invaders or civilised settlers? Justify your answer using evidence from a range of sources.

GDS:

If the Vikings had made it to Poole, what do you think would have happened? Justify your answer using evidence from a range of sources.