'Bringing Learning to Life: No Limits.No Barriers.'

Ocean Academy Poole
an Aspirations Academy
Self-Worth | Engagement | Purpose

Learning Journey Map

Year: **5** Term: **Summer 2**

Subject: **History** Topic: **Anglo-Saxons and Vikings**

Driving Question: How can we use evidence to decide whether the Vikings were bloodthirsty invaders or civilised settlers?
Power Skill: **Critical Thinking -** Debate with a focus on constructing an argument supported by researched information.

National Curriculum Learning Objectives

- Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots
- the Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor

Key Vocabulary

Anglo-Saxon	Viking	homeland	settlement	Lindisfarne
Danelaw	Alfred the Great	King Harold II	Battle of Hastings	longship
bearded axe	runes	longhouse	settlers	invaders

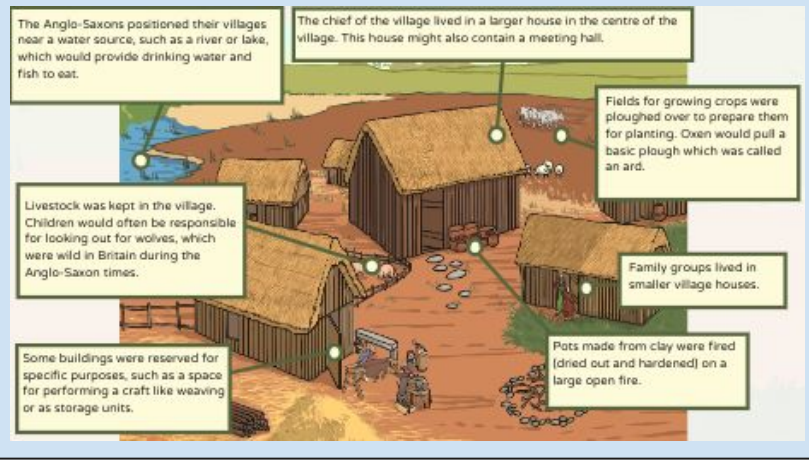
Key Learning

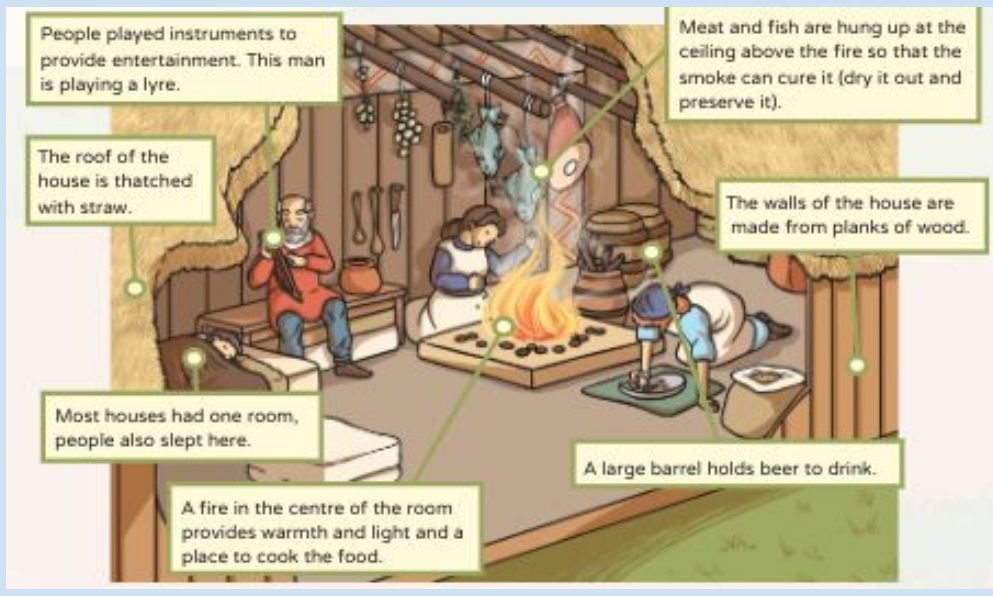


Britain after the Romans:
The last Roman soldiers left Britain in 410AD. The remaining Britons were mainly Celts. This meant Britain was left to without defences after 400 years of protection under Roman rule.
The Celts faced constant invasion from the Picts (from Scotland) and the Scots (from Ireland).To keep control, it is believed that the Celtic king asked a group of people called the Jutes (from modern day Denmark) to come and fight for him and keep the Picts and Scots out. They came and the Picts and Scots were successfully held back. However, the Jutes liked what they found in Britain and decided that they wanted to stay and take land for themselves as it was rich and plentiful and the Celts could be easily defeated. They brought more warriors and over time the invaders began to settle around Britain. Other Germanic tribes had also been invading Britain for some time, and without Roman protection they proved to be a formidable force against the Celts. The two biggest invading tribes were the Angles and the Saxons.

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

Anglo-Saxon life
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. 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.





Thinking Point
Would life have been comfortable as an Anglo-Saxon?

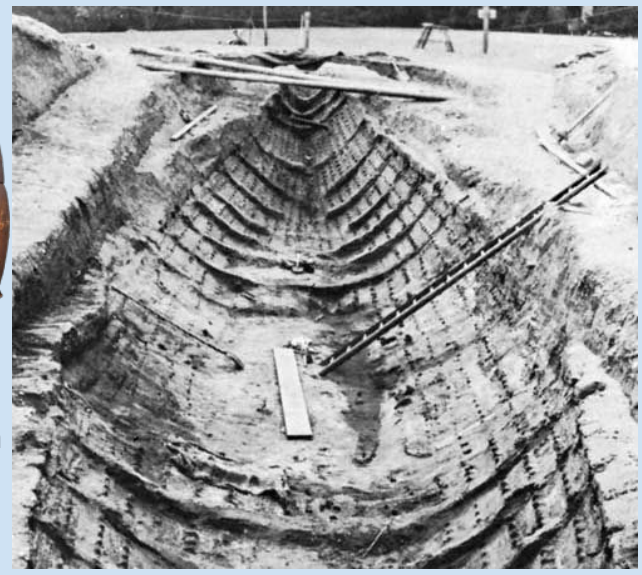
Enquiry lesson
'Who was buried at Sutton Hoo'?
Construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information using the artefacts found there.

Resources:
Images of Sutton Hoo artefacts, weaponry and defense replica artefacts, wattle and daub kits

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Key Learning





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. Inside 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 armour, weapons, ornaments, jewellery, silver and gold tableware, musical instruments, and gold coins. The coins, from the 620s, helped to date the burial.

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 didn’t the ship and some of the artefacts look just like they did 1500 years ago? Why are some of the artefacts in a much better condition?



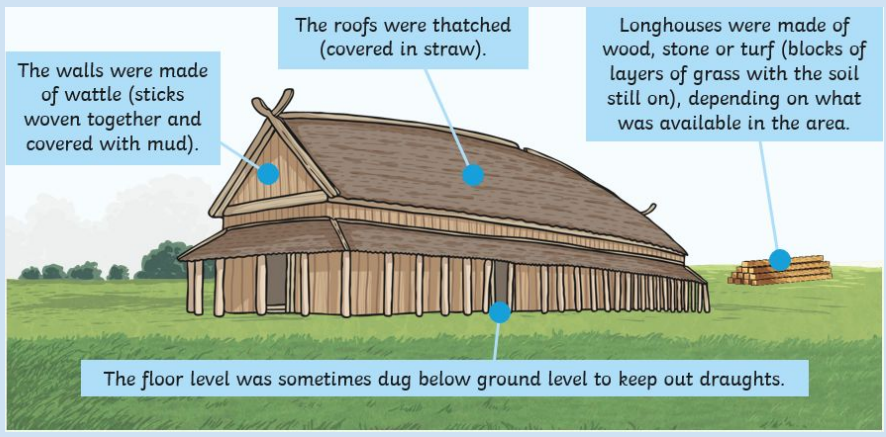
The Vikings



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 notice any similarities or differences between the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings?



Viking warriors

Areas of Scandinavia were ruled by chieftains called Jarls (pronounced Yarls) who raided other countries to become wealthy and establish new lands. The Jarls 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. Everyone owned one as they could also be used for farmwork.
- 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. Only wealthy Vikings owned these and they were considered the 'heroes weapon' because they were very expensive. They were a prized possession and were sometimes given names such as 'Fierce' and 'Leg Biter'.



Viking Longships

Vikings travelled on boats called longships.

Longships were narrow and light making them quick to manoeuvre through water.

They had a shallow hull so they could sail in any type of water such as oceans or even 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. 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.

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 do you think the Vikings were such successful warriors?



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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.



Politics between the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings

The Anglo-Saxons were the main people 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, 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.

However, around this time the Vikings began invading parts of Britain and settling there. This led to many battles between the rulers of the English kingdoms and the Viking kings. Eventually, a peace of sorts was found through the establishment of Danelaw, an agreement between the English king Alfred the Great and the Viking king Guthrun. This established an area of northern England which would be under Viking rule, while central and southern England remained Anglo-Saxon.



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, uniting the Anglo-Saxons.
- He built up the borders to protect his people from the Vikings.
- He also established laws, education, a navy, and reformed the English economy.

Thinking Point
Do you think King Alfred deserves the nickname ‘the Great’?



1066

In January 1066, the English King Edward the Confessor died. Edward had no children and no living brothers. The new King wasn’t clear. Foreign kings would take this opportunity to seize the throne so the Witenagemot (lords) had to choose a new king quickly and carefully! There were four main contenders to the throne: William, Duke of Normandy (in France); Harold Godwinson, Harald Hardrada and Edgar Atheling. Edgar was a child and Harald Hardrada was a Viking so their claims for the throne were weak, but William and Harold both had a lot of support as both had proof that Edward had promised them the throne.

In the end, the Witenagamot chose Harold Godwinson to be the king, becoming King Harold II. William was very unhappy with the result, and made plans to invade England and take the crown.



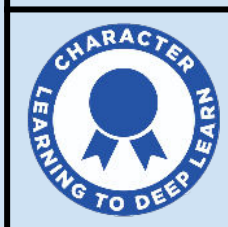
The Battle of Hastings

Harold II gathered his army on the south coast of England. The Anglo-Saxon forces arrived at the battleground in Hastings first, so they took a defensive position at the top of Senlac Hill. When William’s Norman troops arrived, they used their archers to attack the Anglo-Saxons, but this was not effective as they were shooting uphill. Their cavalry (men on horseback) attacks were also unsuccessful, until they managed to trick some of the Anglo-Saxons to follow them down the hill, where they were killed. The Normans continued to charge and then retreat, bringing more of Harold’s men down the hill. The Normans easily won against the exhausted Anglo-Saxons. Harold II was defeated and killed by, so the story goes, an arrow to the eye. William, Duke of Normandy became William I, the Conqueror. The Anglo-Saxon age had come to an end.

This famous historic battle is depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry, which still hangs today in Normandy.

Thinking Point
Why do you think William won the Battle of Hastings?

Power Skills

	Create reconstructions and presentations of Anglo-Saxon and Viking homes, longboats, beliefs, and warrior life to show continuity and change.
	Construct informed responses by selecting, organising, and using evidence from archaeology and historical sources to explain invasion, settlement, and conflict.
	Develop empathy, respect, and moral understanding by exploring belief systems, leadership, conflict, and death in Anglo-Saxon and Viking societies.
	Work collaboratively to research invasions, beliefs, and daily life, sharing responsibility during enquiry tasks and enrichment experiences such as the Viking Longhouse Residential.
	Communicate structured historical explanations, using precise vocabulary and well-organised information to compare societies and explain significance.