

Kingfisher History Knowledge Organiser Term 5

Was the Anglo-Saxon period really a Dark Age?



Key Objectives

- To know who the Anglo-Saxons were.
- To understand when and why they settled in England.
- To find out how we know about the Anglo-Saxons.
- To discover how the Anglo-Saxons lived using archaeological evidence.
- To be able to explain why the Staffordshire Hoard was so significant.
- To argue whether this period deserves to be called a 'Dark Age'.

Key Vocabulary

Angles	People from Germany who invaded Britain around 410AD.
Saxons	People from northern and central Germany who invaded Britain around 410AD.
Anglo-Saxon	The name given to the people who travelled from Germany and Denmark and who settled in Britain.
Pagan	A term used for someone who worshipped many gods.
Invasion	A term used for taking over a place by force.
Settler / Settlement	People who migrate to a new place. When people start a community, this is a settlement.
Archaeologist	Someone who studies the past by exploring old remains.

Sticky Knowledge

- The Roman army left Britain around 410AD. The Anglo-Saxons had started to raid Britain before the Romans left. They had come from Germany, Holland and Denmark.
- The Anglo-Saxons wanted to settle in Britain because the country was fertile.
- The Anglo-Saxons were originally pagans, but they gradually converted to Christianity.
- From 793CE the Vikings raided and then settled in Britain.

The Staffordshire Hoard is one of over 300 Anglo-Saxon hoards found across Britain. 4000 items were found there.



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Sutton Hoo is the largest Anglo-Saxon burial mound in England. This iron helmet was found in the burial chamber.



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