

# Anglo Saxons Knowledge Organiser – Year 5

## Key Knowledge

- ✓ The Anglo-Saxons were made up of three tribes: the Angles; Saxons; and, Jutes.
- ✓ They name 'Angles' eventually became 'English' and their land became 'England'.
- ✓ They came to Britain from across the North Sea in the middle of the 5<sup>th</sup> century.
- ✓ For a long time, England was not one country, Anglo-Saxon kings ruled lots of small kingdoms across the land.
- ✓ The Anglo-Saxons were fierce people who fought many battles, including fighting each other.
- ✓ The Anglo-Saxon period ended when the Normans conquered Britain in 1066.
- ✓ In 871 AD, Alfred became king of Wessex, later becoming known as Alfred the Great.

## Where did they come from?

The Romans left Britain in 410 due to fierce tribes attacking Italy and every soldier was needed back at home to defend the country. Without an army of its own, it left the country vulnerable to attackers. The Anglo-Saxons came from Denmark, Netherlands and northern Germany across the North Sea in wooden boats. They conquered England but failed to conquer Scotland, Wales and Cornwall (an area of south-west England).

## Key Events

Anglo-Saxons raid English shores are beaten back by the Romans

350 AD

Arrival of Anglo-Saxons from Denmark, Germany & the Netherlands

449-550 AD

Britain is divided into 7 Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms

556 AD

St Augustine brings Christianity to Britain from Rome

597 AD

First record of Viking Attack

789 AD



## Big Idea

The Anglo-Saxons also brought their own religious beliefs, but the arrival of Saint Augustine in 597 converted most of the country to Christianity. The Anglo-Saxon period lasted for 600 years, from 410 to 1066, and in that time Britain's political landscape underwent many changes.

## Concepts



Community & culture - settlement

## Disciplinary Concepts



Change & continuity



Similarity & difference

## Vocabulary

**Archaeologist:** People who work out our history by looking at artefacts that have been found.

**Anglo-Saxon kingdoms:** During their time in Britain the Anglo-Saxons formed many kingdoms.

**Shires:** Saxon lands were divided into shires, which helped to make up the counties we have today

**Shire reeve:** The peace officer of a shire, later known as 'sheriff'.

**Thane:** An important Anglo-Saxon person.

**Legacy:** Anglo-Saxons left a legacy which included the language we speak, culture and politics. Many of the shires are our boundaries for counties today.

**Wessex:** Known today as Dorset, Hampshire, Somerset and Wiltshire.

**Witan or witenagemot:** A council that helped the Saxon king rule.

**Wergild:** A fine imposed for stealing or killing.

**Mercia:** Known today as East Anglia, Essex, Kent and Sussex.

*'A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots' Marcus Garvey,*