

Key Facts about Anglo Saxons

Place Names

The first Anglo Saxon Villages were often named after the Chieftain (Leader of the village). This made it clear which tribe the village belonged to. These places often have the letters 'ing' of 'folk' somewhere in their name, often at the end. The first part of the name was most likely to have been the name of the local chieftain.

Who where the Anglo Saxons?

The Anglo, Saxon, and Jute are known as the Anglo-Saxons. The Angles and the Saxon tribes were the largest of the three attacking tribes and so we often know them as Anglo-Saxons. They shared the same language but were each ruled by different strong warriors.

Where did they come from?

Where did the Anglo-Saxons come from? The Anglo-Saxons left their homelands in northern **Germany**, Denmark and The Netherlands and rowed across the North Sea in wooden boats to Britain. They sailed across the North Sea in their long ships, which had one sail and many oars

When did it end?

The **Anglo-Saxon era** ended with William of Normandy's triumph at the battle of Hastings in 1066, which ushered in a new **era** of Norman rule.

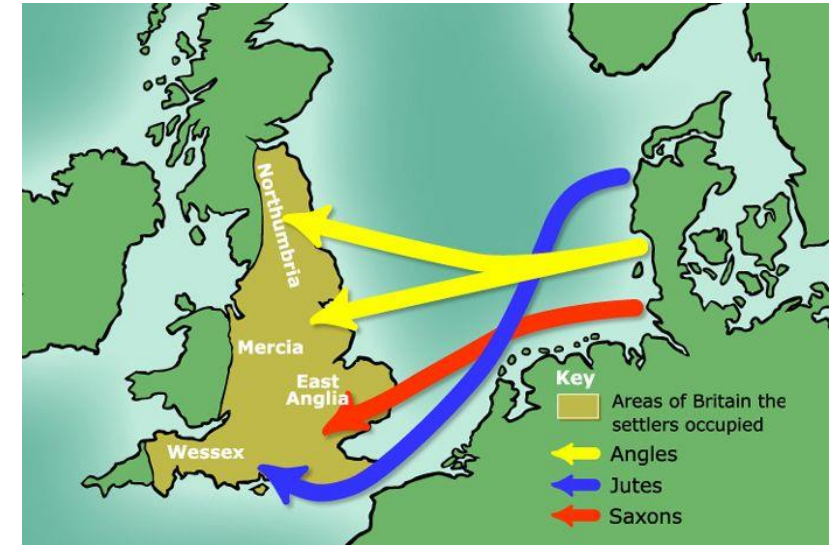
Anglo Saxons

Villages

We know what Saxons houses may have looked like from excavations of Anglo Saxon villages, such as the one at West Stow in the east of England. Here, an early Anglo-Saxon village (c.420-650AD) has been carefully reconstructed where it was excavated. Using clues from the what was discovered, archeologists have reconstructed the houses as they may have looked about 1,500 years ago.



Where they came from!



What did Anglo-Saxons want from Britain?

Some sources say that the **Saxon** warriors were invited to come, to the area now know as **England**, to help keep out invaders from Scotland and Ireland. Another reason for coming may have been because their land often flooded and it was difficult to grow crops, so they were looking for new places to settle down and farm.

Key Words

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Runes | Marks made to communicate |
| Mercia | Name given to a large part of Britain. |
| Offa's Dyke | Large earth ditch built to keep the Celts out of Mercia. |
| Bayeux Tapestry | Large length of cloth that was embroidered (stitched) with the story of the Norman invasion. |
| Lyre | A stringed instrument. |
| St Bede | A monk that wrote about the times and places of Anglo-Saxon Britain. |
| Bronze helmet | A defensive helmet that the Anglo-Saxons wore when going to battle. |
| Thatched roof | Roof made of straw. |

Timeline

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 410 AD Roman rule in Britain ends | 432 AD St. Patrick arrives in Ireland | 459 AD Angles and Saxons invade | 597 AD Augustine comes to spread Christianity | 616 AD First Christian English king | 633 AD Lindisfarne monastery built | 731 AD Bede finishes his 'History of England' | 750ad onwards – Vikings arrive. |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|