

Why did the Saxons invade Britain?

In this unit of work the children will learn about the Anglo Saxon invasion on Britain and how this changed the British way of life. The children will also link their studies to their next topic of The Vikings and how their invasion impacted on the Saxons. Different kings will also be studied and their importance in Britain understood as well as the impact of their deaths.

In this unit children will:

- Understand who the Saxons were and why they came to end up in Britain.
- Study the different Saxon Kings and their importance in Saxon history and the different impact each of the Kings had.
- Find out about the different way of life the Saxons had, including jobs, beliefs and food.
- Understand the impact the Saxons had on life in Britain.
- Be able to recall facts and understanding about the Viking invasion and compare the Saxons to this.

Prior Learning

Year 1 Explorers

Year 2 Famous historical figures

Year 3 The Romans

Year 4 Settlements

Cross Curricular Links

Geography Map work

Literacy writing Saxon adventure stories

Key Vocabulary

Burh (burgh) – a well defended Saxon town.

Christianity – a religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Hoard – items buried and left, possibly for safekeeping.

Interpretation – one person's view of an event in history.

Invasion – attacking and conquering another country.

Martyr – someone who dies for what they believe in.

Missionary – a person who goes to a different country to spread a religion, usually Christianity.

Pagan – a person holding religious beliefs other than those of the main world religions.

Someone who believes in many Gods.

Wergild – this was a payment system used in Anglo-Saxon times to settle disputes between the criminal and the victim or victim's family.

Danelaw – the name given to parts of the country ruled by the laws of The Danes.

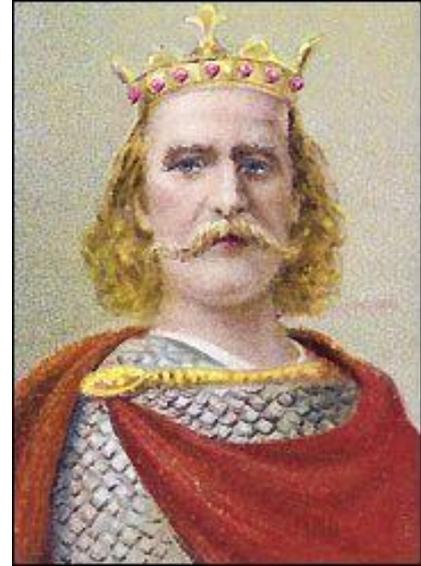
Settle – to live and take up residence.

Runes – letters in the Saxon Runic alphabet.

Invade – armed force to enter somewhere.

Key Knowledge

- In 449 AD the **Anglo Saxons** invaders began to arrive in Britain.
- By 600 AD the **Saxons** were gradually taking over **Britain**.
- In 793 AD the **Vikings** attack from Norway.
- The **Anglo-Saxon** people were very **superstitious**.
- They believed in good and bad omens, lucky charms, spells and magic as they thought that these things could influence what happened in different aspects of their lives.
- **Alfred the Great** becomes **King of Wessex** in 871 AD.
- There were many festivals throughout the year were the Anglo-Saxons made **sacrifices** to their Gods.
- The name comes from the two biggest **invading** tribes were the **Angles** and the **Saxons**.
- **William of Normandy** was crowned the new **king** of England on 25th December AD 1066. The **Viking** age in Britain and Anglo-Saxon rule came to an end.
- In time, William became known as **William the Conqueror**.



- The **Vikings** and **King Alfred** divide England!
- King Alfred dies in 899 AD.
- In one of the most famous battles of all time, **King Harold** is killed in the **Battle of Hastings** in 1066.

Key Questions

- Why did Vortigern invite Saxons to live on his land?
- When did Christianity come to Anglo Saxon England?
- Who was King Offa?
- Who founded the Saxons?