

Key Learning

The Anglo-Saxon period was between 450AD to 1066. Sometimes known as early medieval period.

Anglo-Saxons were a group of farmer-warriors who settled in Britain over a thousand years ago. They were made up of three tribes who came from Europe – Denmark, Germany and Netherlands. They were called the Angle, Saxon and Jute tribes.

They sailed to Britain in search of farming land. They looked for land which had lots of natural resources like food, water and wood to build their homes.

They formed several separate kingdoms across England. By 650AD there were seven kingdoms. By 850AD the seven kingdoms had consolidated into three: Northumbria, Mercia and Wessex.

The Anglo-Saxons were pagans but over time converted to Christianity. Ethelbert of Kent was the first Anglo-Saxon king to be converted to Christianity, by St Augustine around 595 AD.

The name 'Angles' eventually became 'English' and their land, 'Angle-land', became 'England'.

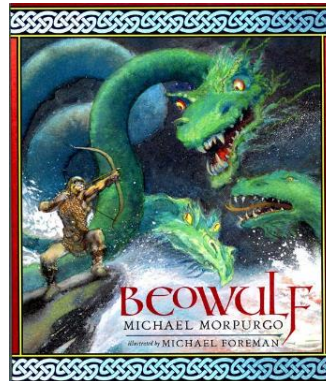
Year 5 - We are Anglo-Saxons

Local Heritage

King Offa of Mercia built Offa's Dyke along the border of Wales and England.

Oswestry means 'Oswald's Tree'. Our town is named after the Christian King Oswald of Northumbria, who was killed by the pagan King Penda of Mercia at the battle of Maserfield in 642AD.

Exciting Reads



Subject Specific Vocabulary

settlement	A place where people live.
Paganism	A religion other than Christianity
Archaeologist	People who discover our history by looking at artefacts that have been found.
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.
Thane	An important Anglo-Saxon person
Migrate	To move to a different area to find better living conditions.
Kingdom	A region with a ruler
Tribe	A group of people who live together and share a way of life.
Dark Ages	This is the name sometimes given to the Anglo Saxon period by historians.
Old English	The language written and spoken by the Anglo Saxons.

Timeline

350

Anglo Saxons start raiding English shores but are beaten back by the Romans

400 AD

Angles, Jutes and Saxons start arriving on British shores.

410 AD

The last Romans leave Britain

550 AD

Angles, Jutes and Saxons create kingdoms in Southern Britain.

779AD

Mercia becomes the supreme kingdom and Offa builds a dyke along the Welsh border