

Knowledge Organiser - Year 4 - Spring 1 - The Saxons (History)

Saxon Houses

The Anglo-Saxons did not like the stone houses and streets left by the Romans, so they built their own villages. They looked for land which had lots of natural resources like food, water and wood to build and heat their homes. They were small wooden huts with a straw roof, and inside was just one room in which the whole family lived, ate, slept and socialised together.



The Saxons named places based on their geographical features. Many of these are still relevant to place names today.

Saxon Name	Meaning	Example
ham	Village	Birmingham
ford	Shallow river crossing	Stamford
port	Market town	Stockport
Ton	Enclosed by a river	Nuneaton
mer	Lake	Cromer
stow	Holy/Meeting place	Padstow

The Anglo-Saxons are tribes who rowed across the North Sea from an area that is now: northern Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. These people came from numerous tribes called the Angles, Saxons and the Jutes. They settled in 7 Anglo-kingdoms across England.

Key dates	
350 AD	Anglo-Saxons raid English shores and are beaten back by the Romans.
410 AD	Last Romans leave Britain, leaving the Celts defenceless.
449-550 AD	Arrival of Jutes, Angles and Saxons from Denmark, Germany The Netherlands.
556 AD	Britain is divided into seven Anglo-Saxon kingdoms: Northumbria, Essex, Wessex, Sussex, East Anglia, Mercia and Kent.

Key Vocabulary

Settlement - A place where people make their homes.

Artefact - A historical object.

Sutton Hoo - In 1939, archaeologists discovered an Anglo-Saxon ship burial at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk.

Paganism - The religion of the Anglo-Saxons, who believed in many gods.

Runes - The Anglo-Saxon alphabet, there are 33 characters in this Runic Alphabet.

Hoard - Items buried and left, possibly for safekeeping.

Invasion - Attacking and conquering another country.

The Saxon Gods (they had many Gods)

Woden - the king of the Anglo-Saxon gods.

Frigg - wife of Woden. Goddess of childbirth.

These four Anglo-Saxon gods gave their names to the days of the week.

Tiw - Tuesday,

Woden - Wednesday

Thunor - Thursday

Frige - Friday