

# National School - Knowledge Organiser

History Topic:

**Anglo-Saxons**

Year 4

Summer 1



## Background understanding for teachers and parents

The Anglo-Saxons came across and settled in England in around 450AD after the country was left without an army of its own and therefore vulnerable to attacks. This topic builds on the Year 3 Spring topic of the Romans, with a focus on what happened to England once the Romans left to defend their homeland. The English king, worried about attacks from the Picts and the Scots invited strong Anglo-Saxon warriors, to come and defend his lands. Unfortunately for the English, they decided to take the country for their own. The Anglo-Saxons came across the North Sea from Northern Germany, Denmark and The Netherlands and settled in different parts creating the 7 kingdoms of England.

410	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Romans left Britain leaving it unguarded.</li> </ul>
449	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Anglo-Saxons arrive in Britain. Originally two Saxon brothers, Hengest and Horsa, who came to help the English to fight off the Picts. They liked England and decided to turn on the king and invade.</li> </ul>
450	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First invasions of the Jutes, Angles and the Saxons. Britain is divided up into the Seven Kingdoms of Northumbria, Mercia, Anglia, Wessex, Essex, Sussex and Kent.</li> </ul>
556	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seven kingdoms are created.</li> </ul>
597	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St Augustine brings Christianity to Britain from Rome and becomes Archbishop of Canterbury.</li> </ul>
617	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northumbria become the Supreme Kingdom.</li> </ul>
757	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offa King of Mercia declares himself King of England.</li> </ul>
779	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mercia becomes a Supreme Kingdom and King Offa builds a Dyke along the West Border.</li> </ul>
793	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vikings attack Lindisfarne.</li> </ul>
802	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Egbert was the first Anglo-Saxon king of all England.</li> </ul>
871	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alfred the Great rules. During his reign he had books translated into English, built forts and walled towns to protect his people and agreed to peace with the Vikings.</li> </ul>
1066	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Battle of Hastings. The Normans defeat the Saxons.</li> </ul>

## What? (Key Vocabulary)

Spelling	Definition/Sentence
Beowulf	An Old English epic story about the attack of a horrific monster at Heorot.
Lindisfarne	A monastery in northern England where Vikings first landed and attacked from Scandinavia.
Lyre	A 5 to 7 stringed musical instrument.
Runes	Alphabet consisting of between 26-33 letters used to write Old English.
Invaders	People who attack and try to take land from other people.
Angles	A tribe from Northern England who settled in East Anglia.
Jutes	A tribe from Northern Europe who settled in Kent, they called themselves 'Kentings.'
Saxons	A tribe from Northern Europe who settled in Essex, Sussex, Mercia and Northumbria.
Settlements	A place where people make their home.

## Who? (Famous people [from this time])

King Alfred the Great.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>849 – 899</li> <li>An Anglo Saxon who fought the Vikings and then made peace so that English and Vikings settled down to live together</li> </ul>
King Cnut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>995AD – 1035AD</li> <li>He became king of England, Denmark, Norway and some of Sweden.</li> </ul>

## Prior knowledge

The Romans were in England until 410AD, they had been there for almost 400 years. They were about to be called back to defend Rome.



## Great Quotes

Alcuin of York.

"It is better to adorn the good habits the soul which will live forever, than to deck in choice garments the body which will soon decay in the dust."

# National School - Knowledge Organiser

History Topic:

**The Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England**  
(to the time of Edward the Confessor)

Year 4

Summer 2



## Background understanding for teachers and parents

The Viking Age in Britain began about 1,200 years ago in the 9th Century AD and lasted for just over 200 years. The Vikings came across the North Sea, just as the Anglo-Saxons had done 400 years earlier. In time, like the Anglo-Saxons, the Vikings made their home here.

This topic builds on the Year 4 Summer 1 topic, but focusses on the complex struggle for power between the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings, which was ultimately ended, in 1066, by the Norman invasion (who were, themselves, descended from Vikings).



### When? (Timeline of key Events)

793	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raids of monasteries, including Lindisfarne</li> </ul>
865	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Great Viking army from Denmark invaded England</li> </ul>
866	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Danes captured York (which the Vikings called Jorvik) and made it their kingdom.</li> </ul>
876	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vikings from Denmark, Norway and Sweden settled permanently in England.</li> </ul>
886	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>King Alfred 'the Great' defeated the Vikings but allowed them to settle in Eastern England</li> <li>Beginning of <b>Danelaw</b></li> </ul>
927	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The kingdoms of England were united by King Æthelstan</li> <li>Wessex ruled the other kingdoms</li> </ul>
954	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eric Bloodaxe, Viking ruler of Northumbria, was expelled from Jorvik</li> <li>Whole of England under Anglo-Saxon control</li> </ul>
991	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>King Æthelred ('the Unready') paid the first <b>Danegeld</b> ransom to stop Danish (Viking) attacks on England</li> </ul>
1013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Danes conquered England</li> <li>Æthelred fled to Normandy</li> </ul>
1016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dane, King Cnut - became King of England</li> </ul>
1042	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saxon, Edward the Confessor became king</li> </ul>
1066	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Edward the Confessor died</li> <li>Battle of Stamford Bridge</li> <li>Battle of Hastings</li> </ul>

### What? (Key Vocabulary)

Spelling	Definition/Sentence
Anglo-Saxon Chronicle	A history of England begun in the 800s
invade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To attack</li> <li>To enter with the <i>intention</i> to take over</li> </ul>
defeat	To beat an enemy
conquer	To beat an enemy <b>and control them using force</b>
monastery	A building where monks live, work and pray
Danelaw	The Eastern area of England ruled by the Vikings
Jorvik	The Viking name for York (in North East England)
expel	To force (someone) to leave a place
flee/fled	To run away from danger
the Confessor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The short form of <i>Confessor of the Faith</i></li> <li>A title given by the Christian Church to a type of saint</li> </ul>

### Great Quotes

The Völsunga saga

"Better to fight and fall than to live without hope."

### Prior knowledge

Once the Romans left, the Britons had no army to defend themselves from the arrival of the Anglo-Saxons in around 449AD

### Who? (Famous people [from this time])

King Alfred The Great	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>849 – 899</li> <li>An Anglo Saxon who fought the Vikings and then made peace so that English and Vikings settled down to live together</li> </ul>
Eric Bloodaxe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>947 - 954</li> <li>King of Norway who became ruler of Northumbria</li> </ul>
King Cnut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>995 – 1035</li> <li>Viking King of England, Denmark and Norway</li> </ul>
Edward the Confessor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1003 - 1066</li> <li>His death in 1066 and the fight for who should succeed him led to the Norman invasion of October 1066 and the Battle of Hastings</li> </ul>