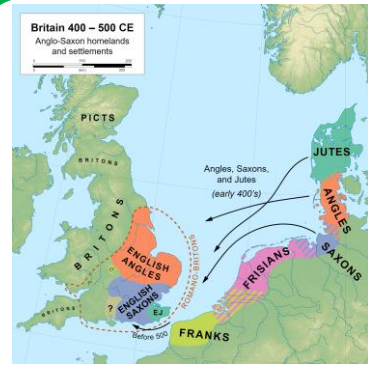




## Who were the Anglo-Saxons?

### In this unit the children will learn:

- about the Saxon way of life at different levels of society.
- about the coming of Christianity as an important development in our past.
- about the reign of King Alfred.



### Timeline of Key Events:

- 410 A.D. - Romans left Britain: leaving it unguarded.
- 497 A.D. - The Kingdom of Wessex is formed.
- 573 A.D. - The Kingdom of East Anglia was formed.
- 586 A.D. - The Kingdom of Mercia was formed.
- 597 A.D. - St. Augustine introduces Christianity.
- 757 A.D. - Offa (King of Mercia) declares himself King of England.
- 793 A.D. - Viking's attack Lindisfarne.
- 871 A.D. - Alfred the Great rules.
- 1066 A.D. - Battle of Hastings, Normans defeated by Saxons.



### Historical Skills and Concepts:

- Chronology** – key events in world history.
- Questioning** – developing historical questioning skills.
- Sources** – using a range of sources to explore our knowledge of the past.
- Cause & Effect** – the impact of Historical events or developments.
- Continuity & Change** – how life then compares to today.

### Key People:

#### **St Augustine (c.530-604)**

Augustine of Canterbury was a Christian missionary sent from Rome to convert people from Anglo-Saxon paganism to Christianity. He was responsible for the widespread adoption of the Christian faith throughout England.

#### **King Alfred the Great (849-899)**

King Alfred the Great fought the Vikings and defeated them in the Battle of Edington (878). This led to making a joint agreement with them (Danelaw). He was known for improving the standard of living, legal and military systems as well as education.



### **Key facts:**

The Romans left Britain in 410 due to fierce tribes attacking Italy and every soldier being needed back at home to defend the country. Without an army of its own, it left England vulnerable to attackers. The Anglo-Saxons came from Denmark, Netherlands and Northern Germany across the North Sea in wooden boats. They conquered England but failed to conquer Scotland, Wales and Cornwall.

The Anglo-Saxon people were very superstitious. They believed in good and bad omens, lucky charms, spells and magic- as they thought these things could influence what happened in different parts of their lives. The Anglo-Saxons were Pagans and believed in many different gods. There were many festivals throughout the year where Anglo-Saxons made sacrifices to their gods.

The name Anglo-Saxon comes from the two biggest invading tribes, the Angles and the Saxons.

In 1939, archaeologists discovered an Anglo-Saxon ship burial at Sutton Hoo, in Suffolk. The ship, plus artefacts discovered in it, provided clues which helped historians understand what the life of an Anglo-Saxon was like.

### **Key Vocabulary:**

**Angles** - People from Germany who invaded Britain around 410 A.D.

**Anglo-Saxon** - The name given to people who travelled from Germany and South Denmark and settled in Britain.

**Invaders** – People who attack and try to take land from other people.

**Monastery** – A religious building where monks live.

**Picts** - Ancient tribes who lived in Northern Scotland.

**Raiders** – People who attack then take what they find away with them.

**Runes** - Alphabet consisting of between 26-33 letters used to write Old English.

**Settler** - People who migrate to a new place. When people start a community, this is a settlement.

**Sutton Hoo** - The site of two early medieval cemeteries; it is vital in understanding the whole of the early Anglo-Saxon period.

