



Welton Primary School—History Knowledge Organiser



Year: 4

The Legacy of the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons

Timeline

410	497	575	597	700	757	789	865	866	871	1014	1042	1066
Romans left Britain leaving it unguarded	The kingdom of Wessex is formed	The kingdom of East Anglia was formed	St Augustine introduces Christianity	The Viking Age begins	Offa declares himself King of England	First recorded Viking attack	Vikings from Denmark invades England	Danes capture York (Jorvik)	Alfred the Great rules	King Cnut of Denmark King of England	Edward the Confessor becomes King	William I King of England

Vocabulary

missionary	Sent on a religious trip to another country
Scandinavia	A region in northern Europe made up of 3 countries Denmark, Norway, and Sweden
conquer	Take control of a place or people by force
kingdom	A country or territory ruled by a king or queen
realm	A kingdom.
ritual	An action done out of habit
treaty	A formal agreement between states
massacre	A brutal slaughter of many people
wergild	Compensation or fine paid for a crime
Valhalla	Where warriors went when they died
Danelaw	Anglo-Saxons follow the rules of the Danes
Danegeld	A tax that the English kingdoms paid to the Vikings between the 9th and 11th centuries
excavation	Expose to view by digging away a covering



Anglo-Saxons

The Romans left Britain in 410 because fierce tribes attacked Italy and every soldier was needed to defend the country. Without an army of its own, it left the Britain vulnerable to attackers. The Anglo-Saxons came from Denmark, Netherlands and northern Germany in wooden boats. They conquered England but failed to conquer Scotland, Wales and Cornwall.

The Anglo-Saxons came to Britain in search of more land to grow crops. They were farmers and settled peacefully in their new home.



Vikings

The Anglo-Saxons were under constant attack from Vikings who travelled from Scandinavia and invaded towns and villages in Wales, Scotland, England and the Isle of Man. They finally conquered York (Jorvik) in 866.

The Vikings wanted new land because the places where they came from in Scandinavia made it was hard to grow crops, which meant there was a food shortage. Britain and Europe had plenty of good farmland and other treasures so the Vikings tried to claim it for themselves.

Local Anglo Saxons and Vikings

The first Vikings in York were Danes travelling north from East Anglia in 866. The Vikings turned around the dwindling Anglo-Saxon port of Eoforwic making it into a prosperous city with much significance within the Danish kingdom of Northumbria, and increased its local and international trade. They called it Jorvik.

The Viking ruler of Northumbria Guthred who died in 895 was buried in York Minster. The Vikings, once feared raiders, showed a more cultured side and made Jorvik the capital of the Norse Kingdom of York. It had properly surfaced streets and Micklegate became the main route to a new major crossing over the River Ouse.

Other important local figures include Alfred the Saxon king of Northumberland died and is buried in Driffield. Alcuin of York was born in Spurn Head and was one of the most important people in the world during the Italian Renaissance, he studied with Bede and was sent to Rome to speak with the Pope about York and its importance to the church.



Key figures

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 considered to be responsible for the widespread adoption of the Christian faith throughout England.

King Offa (c730-796)

King of Mercia, and of most of England in the mid-8th Century. Historians regard him as the most powerful Anglo-Saxon king until Alfred the Great.

King Alfred the Great (849-899)

Fought the Vikings and defeated them in the Battle of Edington (878) and thus made an agreement with them (Danelaw). He was known for improving the standard of living, legal and military systems as well as education.

King Canute (990-1035)

Canute was the first Viking king of England, ruling from 1016-1035. He won a battle against Edmund II that divided their kingdoms, but when Edmund died Canute ruled both kingdoms. His sons, Harold Harefoot and then Hardicanute, ruled until 1042.

Harald Hardrada (c.1015-1066)

Harald Hardrada was the king of Norway. He led Viking armies into England but



Law and Order



The Anglo-Saxons needed rules for living together peacefully and punishments to deal with crime. Criminals had always been punished, but there wasn't a single set of rules that the whole country lived by. As towns and villages became more organised, laws were agreed and written down so that everyone knew the consequences of a particular crime.

Anglo-Saxons didn't have police or prisons. Instead, victims of crimes would go to the king or earl and ask for compensation—to be paid for the problem someone had caused them. This was called 'wergild'. The two sides would tell their story and the king would decide which side was right and set the amount of compensation. The amount of wergild set depended on the crime that had been committed. Men were paid more than women and children.



Religion

In AD597 the Pope in Rome decided it was time the Anglo-Saxons in Britain became Christians. He sent a monk called Augustine to persuade the King to become a Christian. Over the next 100 years, many Anglo-Saxons turned to Christianity and new churches and monasteries were built.

Monasteries were centres of learning. Monks copied out books by hand and decorated the pages in beautiful colours. Monasteries were the only schools in Anglo-Saxon England.

Bede, an English monk lived in the monastery at Jarrow in Northumbria. In 680, when he was 7 years old he went to live with the monks. When he grew up, he became a historian. He wrote a book about the history of the Anglo-Saxons, called 'A History of the English Church and People'.

What did we get from the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings?

- Our legal system
- Christianity
- Wrote the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles
- Place names
- Many of our words

