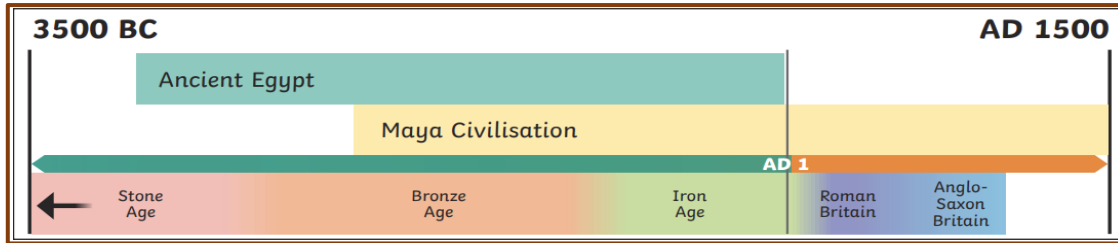


Y5 History: How did Britain change following settlement by the Anglo-Saxons and Scots?

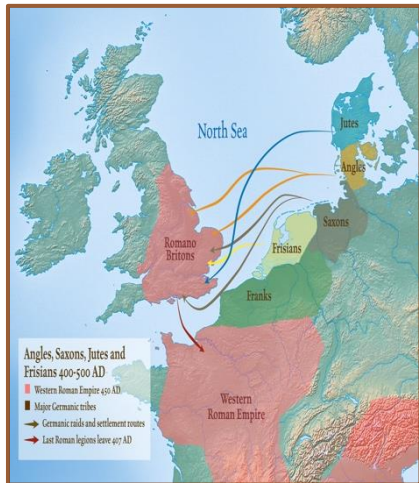
Prior learning



Key Vocabulary

chronology, change, continuity, BC / BCE, AD / CE, circa, period, artefacts, archaeologist, Vortigern, Hengest, Horsa, Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Ireland, Scots, Picts, Alba, invaders, settlers, kingdom, heptarchy, Pagan, Augustine, Christian, monk, monastery, Mercia, Wessex, Kenneth MacAlpine, wattle, daub, thanes, churls, thralls, weregild, exile

- I know that historians use evidence (such as artefacts, writing and photographs) to find out about life in the past.
- I understand that concepts such as invasion, settlement and progress of technology, run throughout history.
- I know that the Romans conquered Britain as part of their Empire and ended the Iron Age.
- I know that the Roman Empire influenced the way of life in Britain: towns, plants, animals, religion, language, writing, science.
- I know that once the majority of Roman soldiers left c.400CE, when their empire closer to home was threatened with attack, it left Britain vulnerable to invasion.



With the Roman army gone, the wealthy nation of Britain was left to defend itself

The Scotti were descendants of the Picts, who had invaded Ireland c. 200AD, then returned and settled in Scotland. The land was divided into four kingdoms: Dal Riata, Pictland, Strathclyde and Bernicia. The Picts and the Scots were a constant threat to the Britons. They streamed south over Hadrian's Wall, killing everyone in their path.

The British **King Vortigern** was left in charge after the Roman armies left, but he struggled to organise troops to hold back the Picts and Scots; he worried they would take over in Britain. In a bid to retain control, it is thought that Vortigern asked two brothers called Hengest and Horsa from Jutland (in modern day Denmark) to come and fight for him and keep the Picts and Scots out of Britain.

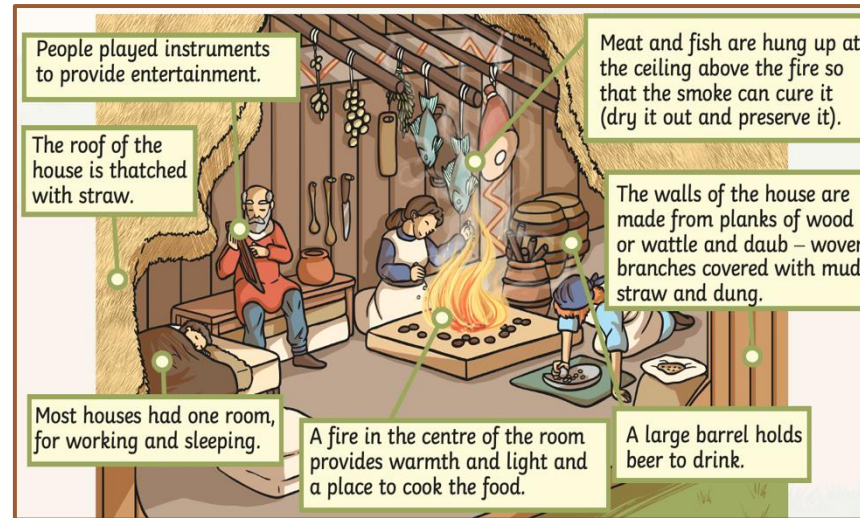


Hengest and Horsa's army successfully held back the Picts and Scots, but they liked what they found in Britain; they decided to stay and take land for themselves, as it was wealthy and had good farmland - and the Britons could be easily conquered! They brought more warriors, and over time the invaders began to settle around Britain with their families, pushing the Brits further west.

The Jutes weren't the only ones who wanted to settle in Britain. Other tribes had been invading from northern Europe for some time, and without Roman protection, they proved to be an unstoppable force. The Britons were pushed west, into Cornwall and Wales. The two biggest invading tribes were the **Angles** and the **Saxons**. Other invaders were the Jutes, Franks and Frisians. They came from the modern countries of Germany, Netherlands and Denmark. By c.550CE, England had been divided into seven kingdoms, known as the 'heptarchy'. Kings and their armies constantly fought to control other kingdoms and defend their land.

Anglo-Saxon Settlements

The Romans had established large towns, such as London and Cirencester, but they became much smaller and quieter during Anglo-Saxon times; some towns were completely abandoned. The Anglo-Saxons chose to live in small villages instead, which were often set up by clearing away a part of a forest. They lived in thatched wooden houses built around a central hall, where the village chief lived.



Life in the settlement was hard work: if they weren't needed to fight, men cut down trees, grew crops, hunted and looked after the animals. Women looked after the homes, cooking meals, making cheese and brewing beer. Some Anglo-Saxons had specialised jobs, such as weaving cloth, making pots, working with metal (making tools, weapons and armour) and even making jewellery and ornaments with glass, gold, silver and gemstones. Evidence for this comes from archaeology: the burial mound at Sutton Hoo and the Staffordshire Hoard.

Anglo-Saxon Beliefs

The religion of the early Anglo-Saxons was **Paganism**. They worshipped many gods, including Woden, Frigg and Thunor. Festivals and sacrifices were made to the gods and goddesses – one of the most important taking place in Spring, for the goddess Eostre. As pagans the Anglo-Saxons also believed in good and bad omens, lucky charms, spells and magic. They would perform many rituals that they believed would protect them in this life and the next.

In AD 597, Augustine (a Roman monk) was sent to tell the Anglo-Saxons about **Christianity**. King Ethelbert of Kent was the first to be converted and baptised, along with 10,000 of his people. Canterbury Cathedral was founded by Augustine, and eventually, the rest of the kingdoms became Christian too. With Christianity came monasteries, reading and writing. A famous monastery was built on Lindisfarne in Northumbria. This Holy Island was very influential, and the monks here spread Christianity across the kingdom.

Other Key Knowledge

Chronology

- ❑ The Anglo-Saxons began to settle in Britain c.450CE; their rule completely ended in 1066, with the Norman Conquest.

Anglo-Saxon and Scots Settlement

- ❑ The kingdoms of Scotland united as one country in 840CE; originally called Alba; it was ruled by Kenneth MacAlpine.
- ❑ Society was split into three classes – thanes (lords, in charge of a village), churls (peasants) and thralls (slaves); some laws were similar to today such as paying fines (weregild) and exile, but some were brutal.
- ❑ Women had more rights than under Roman rule: they could own land, marry and divorce freely, rule kingdoms (Aethelflaed), and had the same legal rights as men.
- ❑ The Germanic Anglo-Saxon language spread throughout Britain; it is now referred to as 'Old English', and the language that we speak today is largely based on it.
- ❑ Sutton Hoo and the Saffordshire Hoard are significant Anglo-Saxon burial sites; the jewellery and decoration showed that they were skilled craftsmen.

Historical Enquiry

- I can talk about how Britain changed following settlement by the Anglo-Saxons and Scots.