KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

HISTORY YEAR 4

What changed in Britain after the Anglo-Saxon invasion?

MY LEARNING JOURNEY

1	2	3	4	5	6
Who were the Anglo-Saxons and Scots?	What were Anglo-Saxon settlements like?	What does Sutton Hoo reveal?	How did Christianity spread?	Was King Alfred really "Great"?	How did Anglo-Saxon rule end?

Previously, I learnt to…

- Explain Roman changes in Britain.
- Make deductions from Roman artefacts.
- Explain invasion and settlement.
- Compare earlier British communities.

In this unit, I am learning…

- ❑ Explain Britons' feelings after Roman rule.
- ❑ Explain why Anglo-Saxons came to Britain.
- ❑ Compare Anglo-Saxon and prehistoric homes.
- ❑ Make inferences from Sutton Hoo artefacts.
- ❑ Explain changing beliefs and missionaries.
- ❑ Explain Viking threats and claims in 1066.

Looking ahead: In Year 5, I will learn…

- Explain why Vikings came to Britain.
- Compare raiding, settlement and trade.
- Evaluate Viking achievements.

VOCABULARY

Word	Meaning
claimant	A person who believes they are entitled to be the king or queen.
inference	An idea about the past supported by clues in evidence.
invasion	A military attack in which an army uses force to take over another country.
kingdom	Land ruled by a king or queen.
missionary	A person sent to an area to promote Christianity.
oath	A solemn promise.
settlement	A place where a community of people live.
settlers	People who move to a new country and stay there permanently.
Viking raids	Attacks on Britain in which the Vikings landed to steal items.
Vikings	Seafaring people from Scandinavia who raided and invaded Britain.

Anglo-Saxon Britain · Year 4

Key dates: approximate where shown (not to scale)

c.AD 410	AD 563	AD 597	AD 878	AD 927	AD 1066
Roman rule ends	Columba founds Iona	Augustine in Kent	Alfred wins at Edington	Athelstan rules a united England	Norman conquest

People and settlements

Angles, Saxons and Jutes came from northern Europe for land, work and power. Scots came from Ireland. Timber homes, farming and villages developed. Compare them with prehistoric settlements: what changed and continued?



Kingdoms and Sutton Hoo

Kingdoms included Wessex, Mercia and Northumbria. Sutton Hoo's ship burial contained weapons and costly objects. They suggest wealth, power and overseas contacts. The buried person may have been King Raedwald; this is uncertain.



Changing beliefs

Many incoming settlers worshipped several gods. Christianity already existed in Britain. Columba founded Iona in 563; Augustine reached Kent in 597; Aidan founded Lindisfarne in 635. Conversion took time.



Alfred and Viking threats

Viking raids and invasions threatened kingdoms. Alfred defeated Guthrum at Edington in 878. Later agreements recognised areas of control, including Danelaw. Conflict continued. Judge Alfred using evidence, rather than his title alone.



Who should rule in 1066?

After Edward the Confessor died, Harold Godwinson became king. William of Normandy and Harald Hardrada also claimed power. Compare family links, promises and ability to lead. William defeated Harold at Hastings in 1066.

Working as a historian

Compare sources. Explain what artefacts suggest about beliefs and status, and distinguish evidence from reconstruction.