

HISTORY



YEAR 4

WHAT WAS THE ANGLO-SAXON MIGRATION?

The Big Picture

The Roman army had occupied most of Britain for nearly four hundred years. Then in 410AD, due to attacks upon land close to Rome and economic problems, the Romans withdrew their army to support the Empire in Europe. The Romans didn't take their buildings with them. After all, how could they? The Britons who were left over (along with some of the Romans who deserted the army) made use of what was left over. As the Romans left, they were able to make their own decisions for the first time; what would their new-found freedom bring them? However, they were not left alone for long. The invasion of multiple cultural groups, collectively known as the Anglo-Saxons, had begun.

In this topic we will build a time line of this era, learn about primary sources from "The dark ages", study significant people from the time and understand what life was like in Anglo-Saxon Britain.



End Point Knowledge

- The exact history of this period is murky and we don't have a lot of first-hand sources.
- The Angles settled in Bernicia, Deira and Lyndsey (Northumbria), and Mercia. The Jutes settled in Kent. The Saxons settled in Wessex, Sussex, Middlesex and Essex.
- King Offa of Mercia, inspired by Hadrian's Wall, built a vast dyke to protect Mercia from his enemies in Powys.
- British and Gaelic priests spread Christianity amongst the Anglo-Saxons. Once King Oswald and King Ethelbert began building churches, the Anglo-Saxons began to abandon paganism in favour of Christianity.
- The **Anglo-Saxons** took over the South-East of the British Isles. They pushed the **Britons** North and West.

Key Vocabulary

Angle, Saxon, Jute, Frisian, Frank, Briton, Scot, Pict, Gael, heptarchy, Mercia, Wessex, Sussex, Essex, East Anglia, Kent, Northumbria, king, kingdom, earl, thane, ceorl, peasant, slave, ship burial, sword, tribute, bretwalda