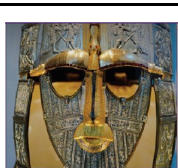


Key Vocabulary

kingdom	An area of England ruled over by one King, usually a great warrior.
fertile	Land which has lots of nutrients, so is easy to grow crops in.
tribe	A community of people who live and work together, with a common leader.
fort	A settlement that had a defensive wall built to strengthen it against attack.
pagan	A religion other than one of the main world religions, e.g. non-Christian.
converted	Changed someone's mine, especially about religion.
invasion	An unwelcome, armed intrusion into another country or region.
Danes	Another name for Viking invaders.
Danelaw	The area of land given to the Vikings in the east of England, where they obeyed Danish law.
archaeologist	A person who digs up artefacts and buildings from the past and studies them.
runes	Anglo-Saxons wrote using letters called runes. The alphabet was called the futhork.



Sutton Hoo

The site of an Anglo-Saxon burial ground which was a major archeological discovery in 1939.



Lindisfarne Priory

Monks from Lindisfarne Priory were successfully able to promote the spread of Christianity across the North of England. This happened after King Ethelbert became the first Anglo-Saxon Christian king.

Entertainment

The Anglo-Saxons were keen storytellers. They would gather together in feasting halls and recite poems and tell thrilling stories. One famous story was that of the hero '**Beowulf**'. Often their stories would be accompanied by music played on a string instrument called a **lyre**. The Saxons liked to play with words too. They amused themselves by telling clever **riddles**.

Children played with homemade toys. They had **rag dolls** and carved wooden toys, as well as **games that used counters and dice**. Children also had spinning tops and played tunes on **pipes** made from reeds or animal bones.

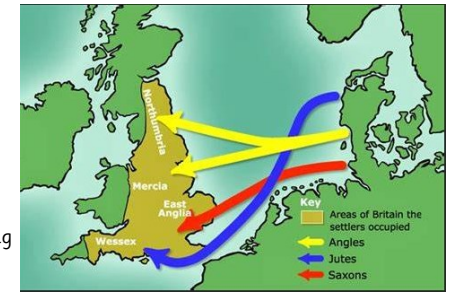
Anglo-Saxon men enjoyed sporting pastimes, like **wrestling**, **weight-lifting** (using heavy rocks) and **horse-racing**. These sports kept them fit for work and strong for war.

Who were the Anglo-Saxons?

* After the Romans left (approx. 410AD) there were many groups who invaded to try and conquer Britain. These included tribes from: Ireland (Scots), Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands (Frisians), Denmark & Scotland (Picts).

*Of these, the three main attacking forces were:
 Jutes – originally from Belgium
 Angles – originally from Denmark
 Saxons – originally from Germany

The Angles and the Saxon tribes were the largest of the three attacking tribes and so we often know them as **Anglo-Saxons**.



How was Anglo-Saxon Britain Ruled?

Anglo-Saxon Britain wasn't ruled by one person and the Anglo-Saxons were not united. They invaded as many different tribes and each took over different parts of Britain.

Each group of Anglo-Saxon settlers had a leader or war-chief. A strong and successful leader became 'king'. Each king ruled a kingdom and led a small army.

Over time, Britain was divided into **seven kingdoms** run by different groups. The kingdoms were East Anglia, Sussex, Wessex, Essex, Northumbria, Mercia and Kent.



Anglo-Saxon Warriors



The Anglo-Saxons did not have a permanent army. However, if fights broke out, rulers could call on a group of men called the fyrd to fight. As the years went on in Anglo-Saxon England, the role of the Anglo-Saxon continued to evolve. A brand-new group of warriors emerged, known as the huscarls. These warriors originated from Scandinavia, where they would serve as bodyguards and household troops of Norse warlords and kings.



Alfred the Great

Alfred, one of the only kings in British history to be called 'Great'.
 He fought the Vikings and then made peace so that English and Vikings settled down to live together. He encouraged people to learn and he tried to govern fairly.



Woden God of War and Wisdom

The Anglo-Saxons were pagans who believed in many Gods and superstitions. Over time their beliefs changed and many Anglo-Saxons were converted to Christianity