



Y4 History Knowledge Organiser—The Dark Ages



Key Knowledge

Learn these key facts—key points in red

Invasion

The Anglo Saxons: (made from the Angles, Saxons and the Jutes) invaded in 450AD. They came to farm, to fight, to make new homes and also by invitation from the Britons to help defend them from the Picts and Scots attacking from the north.

Anglo Saxon Life

Houses: The British forests surrounded villages meaning wood was plentiful. Houses were small wooden huts with straw roofs and one room.

Food: Enjoyed feasts and ate what they could grow such as cereals, vegetables and fruits. They enjoyed meats such as pork and lamb, but these were scarce.

Clothes: Men wore tunics of wool or linin. Women wore underdresses of linin under an outer pin-afore dress. Shoes were made of leather.

Pagan Gods: These were worshipped until Christianity was introduced and popularised.

Key Figures

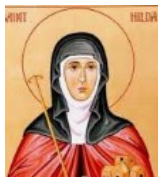
Saint Augustine— In the late 6th century, a man was sent from Rome to England to bring Christianity to the Anglo-Saxons. He would ultimately become the first Archbishop of Canterbury, establish one of medieval England's most important abbeys, and kickstart the country's conversion to Christianity.



King Ethelbert of Kent (550AD—616AD)—The first Anglo Saxon King to convert to Christianity, encouraged by his wife Bertha, causing an increase of churches in Britain.



Alfred the Great (849AD-899AD) Made important reforms to the law and believed in the importance of education. He had books translated into English and developed a kingship based on firm moral and religious grounds.



St Hilda— The patron saint of learning and culture, she ran Whitby Abby as a place of learning and religion during the increase in popularity of Christianity.

Key Sites

Sutton Hoo—the site of two existing burial grounds from the 6th and 7th century, that contained a ship burial among other artefacts from the Anglo-Saxon time.

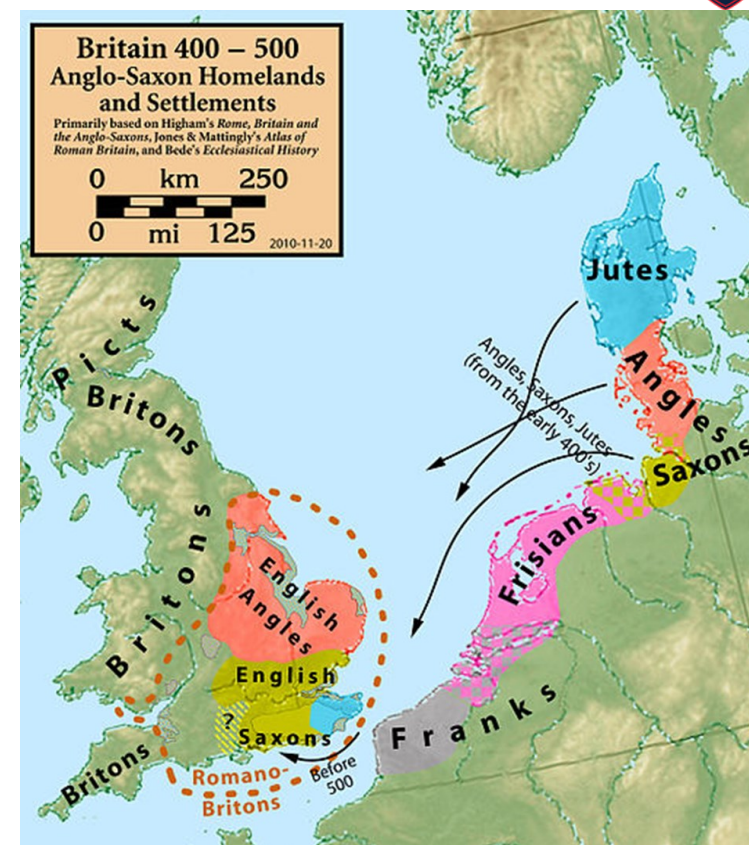
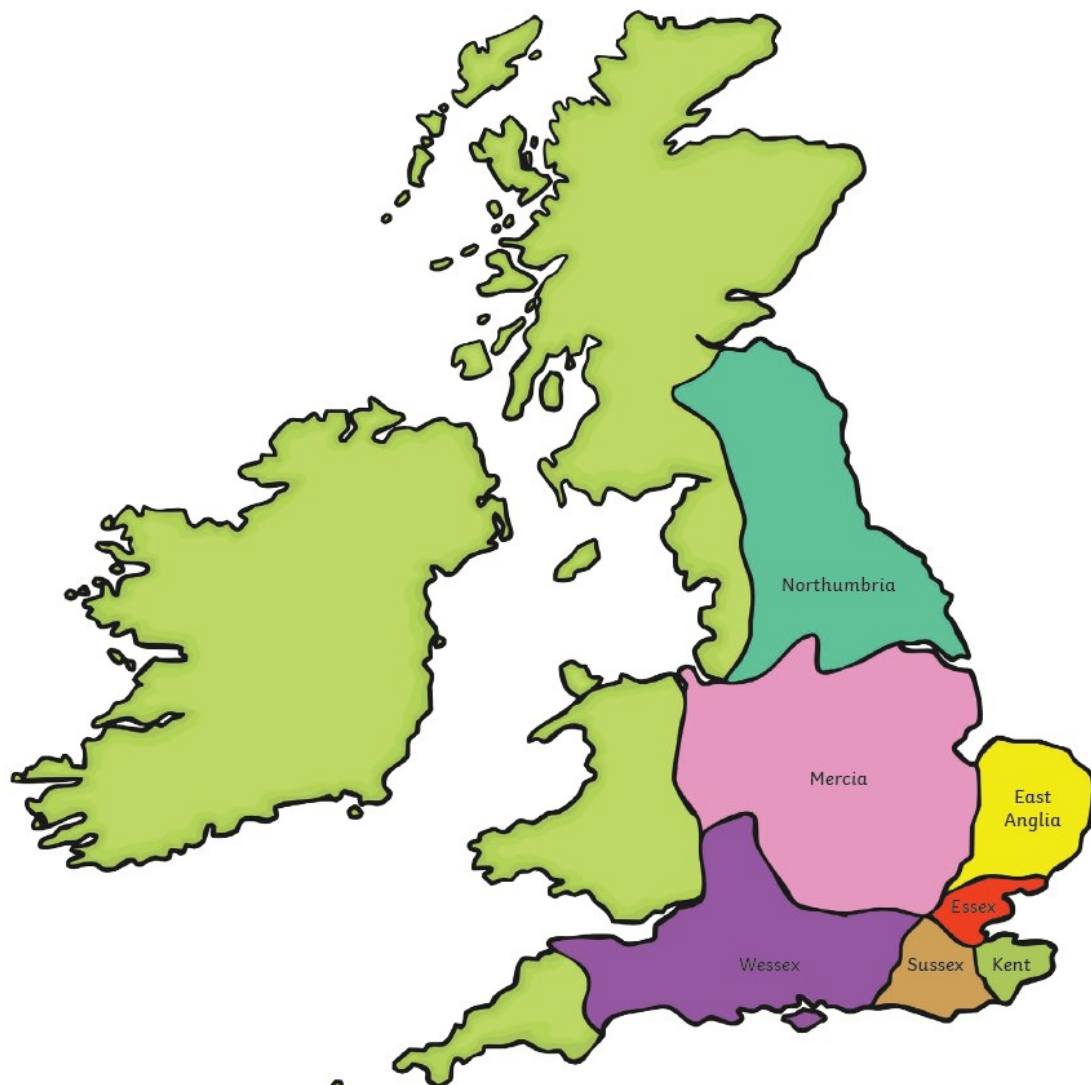


Key Vocabulary

Understand these key words

Word	Definition
Ceorls	Free peasants or common people who formed the basis of Anglo Saxon society.
Cyning	A strong and successful Anglo Saxon leader who ruled a kingdom.
Thralls	Slaves in Anglo Saxon society.
Bretwalda	Name given to rulers of large parts of territory in Anglo Saxon England.
Thanes	Powerful men who owned land, were in charge of villages and reported to the Anglo Saxon kings.
Picts	A group of tribes from Scotland who started to invade Britain from the North once the Romans left.
Settlement	A place where people make their homes and form a community.
Christianity	The religion based on the teachings of Jesus and a belief in one God.
Pagans	The religion for the Anglo Saxons who believed in many gods.
Kingdom	An area that is ruled by a king or queen.
AD	Anno Domini ('In the year of our Lord) is used to refer to the years after Christians believe the birth of Jesus occurred .
hierarchy	A system in which members of society are ranked according to their status.

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The Seven Main Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms

Northumbria, Mercia, Wessex, Kent, East Anglia, Essex and Sussex.

