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| **Knowledge organiser for Year 4 – Who were the Anglo- Saxons and what was life like in Anglo-Saxon Britain?**  **Curriculum Statement:** Britain’s settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots  **Overall enquiry question:** **Who were the Anglo- Saxons and what was life like in Anglo-Saxon Britain?**  **Links to prior learning**: The Romans  **Core knowledge in bold**  **New learning 23-24** | | | Disciplinary Concepts to be taught:   * Significance * Continuity and change * Cause and consequence * Similarity and difference | |
| **Overarching questions** | **Questions for monitoring** | **Knowledge** | | **Vocab** |
| Who were the Anglo-Saxons and why did they invade?  Cause and consequence | **Where did the Anglo-Saxons come from?**  **When did the Anglo-Saxons arrive in Britain?**  Who ruled England before and after the Anglo-Saxons?  How did the Anglo-Saxons arrive in Britain?  **Why did the Anglo-Saxons come to Britain?**  Where in Britain did the Anglo-Saxons first settle?  What were the 7 kingdoms of the Anglo Saxons? | * **The Anglo-Saxons were a mix of tribes from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. They were not one united people but lots of smaller warring tribes.** * **The three biggest were the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes.** * **The last Roman soldiers left Britain by AD410. The Anglo-Saxons started to arrive in AD410. The Roman’s left to defend other parts of the Roman empire in Europe.** * **The Anglo-Saxon age in Britain was from around AD410 to 1066. During some of this period, the Viking’s also ruled parts of Britian.** * **Prior to Anglo-Saxon reign in Britain, the Romans held power.** * After the Anglo Saxons, in 1066, the Normans came to power. * The land the Anglo Saxons settled in became known as 'Angle-land', or England. Before, the Romans had named it Britannia. *The* ***name*** *"****England****" is derived from the* ***Old*** *English* ***name*** *Englaland, which means "land of the Angles")* * They rowed across the North Sea in Wooden boats to England. * **Historians believe they came to Britain because their lands frequently flooded and they needed somewhere to grow crops. They were also invited here by the Romans in AD 390 to help defend Britain from the Scots and the Picts. But instead of leaving afterwards, they stayed and took over.** * The Anglo-Saxons split Britain in to 7 Kingdoms: Northumbria, Mercia, east Anglia, Wessex, Sussex, Kent & Essex and each had its own king initially. | | Jutes, Angles, Saxons, Vikings, Normans, Romans, kingdoms, Kentings, Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Wessex, Sussex, Kent, Essex |
| What can we learn about the Anglo-Saxons from historical artefacts?  Ask historical questions.  Use artefacts to understand the past.  Compare and contrast aspects of life in different periods using a range of sources and understand their reliability.  Explore and interpret sources of evidence, discussing the effectiveness of the sources of evidence.  *\*This lesson should include exploring artefacts, using them to make judgements and asking historical questions* | How do we know about the Anglo-Saxons?  What can we discover about life in Anglo-Saxon Britain from artefacts?  **What was life like during the Anglo-Saxon reign in England?** | * **The Anglo Saxons were farmers and warriors. They enjoyed battle.** * **The Anglo-Saxons were great craftsmen too. Metalworkers made iron tools, knives and swords. The Anglo-Saxons were skilled jewellers, who made beautiful brooches, beads and ornaments from gold, gemstones, and glass. They were also great at woodwork. They used clay, glass and bone to produce different items.** * **They lived in wooden huts facing the sun to get as much heat and light as possible.​ There was only one room where everybody ate, cooked, slept and entertained their friends.** * **They grew crops and kept pigs, sheep and cattle and hunted other animals and fish for food.** * **They traded goods such as hunting dogs and slaves for things they couldn't make, like glass, with people from other countries.​** * **Children were not educated. Boys learned the skills of their fathers. They learned to chop down trees with an axe, plough a field, and use a spear in battle. They also fished and went hunting. Girls worked in the home. They were in charge of housekeeping, weaving cloth, cooking meals, making cheese and brewing ale. AT 10 years old they were considered an adult.** * The Jutes mainly settled in Kent and were called Kentings. The Angles settled in East Anglia. The Saxons settled in Essex (east Saxons), Sussex (south Saxons), Middlesex (middle Saxons) and Wessex (west Saxons). * Not many people wrote during the Anglo-Saxon period initially. The Anglo-Saxons used runes (marked stones), but few have survived. Much of our evidence comes from archaeology: burials, grave goods, treasure hoards and building remain. In the later part of the Anglo-Saxon period, the Anglo-Saxon chronicles were produced which tell us more about the period. * From artefacts, we know that: * They made jewellery. * They were warriors who used swords and chain mail. * They used clay pots to cook and store foods. * They used leather. * They were farmers. * They worked with silver and gold | | weaving, brewing ale, metal workers, chain mail, |
| How did people’s lives change when Christianity came to Britain and how can, we be sure?  Compare and contrast aspects of life in different periods using a range of sources and understand their reliability.  Continuity and change | What is a Pagan?  What is a Christian?  What did pagans believe and how did they worship in Anglo-Saxon times?  **Who brought Christianity to the Anglo-Saxons?**  How was Augustine significant in introducing Christianity to Britian?  What changed in England when it converted to Christianity?  How do we know? | * A pagan believes in many Gods. Anglo-Saxons believed each Pagan god controlled a particular part of everyday life: the home, growing crops, healing, wisdom, metalworking, love, the weather, the family, war and day and night. The religion is called Paganism. * A Christian believes there is one God, and that Jesus Christ was his son on earth who died for the sins of mankind. * When Anglo-Saxons arrived in Britain, they were Pagans. They believe in elves, goblins and dragons and were very superstitious. * Anglo-Saxons believed in lucky charms**.** They thought that rhymes, potions, stones and jewels would protect them from evil spirits or sickness. * The Anglo-Saxons worshiped the gods Tiw, Woden, Thunor and Frig. This is where we get Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Tiw was the God of war (Tuesday), Woden was the king of the gods (Wednesday), Thunor was the god of thunder (Thursday) and Frig was the goddess of love (Friday). * As part of their pagan believes they sacrificed animals such as oxen and boards to honour the gods. * When Anglo-Saxons died, their bodies were often cremated or buried in a grave along with some **belongings** Men's graves included **knives** and **spears**. Women's graves included tools used for **sewing** and **weaving**. High status graves had swords and precious objects. * **Three Monks brought Christianity to Britain. St Columba brought Christianity to Iona in 563 where he opened a monastery and converted lots of the Scottish people to Christianity. In AD597 Augustine was sent from Rome to England to bring Christianity to the Anglo Saxons. He was sent by Pope Gregory to re-establish Christianity in England. He was the first Archbishop of Canterbury and built the cathedral there. He converted many of the Kings (including King Ethelbert) but not every day people. Aidan set up a Monastery in Iona in AD634. He spoke to ordinary people as well as the wealthy and converted many every day Anglo Saxons to Christianity. From this time, Anglo Saxon England gradually converted to Christianity.** * When the Ango-Saxons converted to Christianity, they converted pagan shrines to churches, magic water became holy water and pagan gods were turned in to Christian saints. Kings also took priests in to battle with them and carved Bible passages and scenes in to their armour and weapons. Monasteries were also created. They were the only schools in England. * Artefacts such as armour and prayer books from the time, prove this conversation occurred between the 7th and 8th century. | | Pagan, Christian, saints, sacrifice, Pope, Archbishop. conversion |
| What does the mystery of the empty grave tell us about Saxon Britain?  Compare and contrast aspects of life in different periods using a range of sources and understand their reliability.  Explore and interpret sources of evidence, discussing the effectiveness of the sources of evidence.  *\*This lesson should include exploring artefacts, using them to make judgements and asking and answering historical questions The British museum’s Sutton hoo website contains images which should be used.*  Significance | What is an artefact?  What is a primary source?  What is a secondary source?  **What was found at Sutton Hoo?**  What is a burial mound?  **What did the artefacts tell us about the Anglo-Saxons?**  Whos’ grave was this?  How do we know?  Where was the body?  What can we be sure of?  What can we not be sure of?  How reliable can we consider these artefacts? | * Artefacts are items from a historical period that were made by humans, not naturally occurring. * Primary sources are evidence produced during the period itself. * Secondary sources are evidence produced afterwards by people studying the period of history. * Sutton Hoo is a house in Suffolk where, in 1938, Anglo-Saxon burial mounds were excavated to reveal Anglo-Saxon artefacts. * A burial mound is a small hill of earth over a grave or crypt. Anglo-Saxon mounds are sometimes called barrows or tumuli. * **Inside the burial mount was the imprint of a decayed 27m long ship and a chamber filled with treasure. This is the richest medieval grave in Europe. Within the treasure trove, they found:** * **Feasting vessels** * **Hanging bowls** * **Silverware** * **Textiles** * **Gold dress accessories** * **Military items** * **Helmets and human masks** * **A sceptre** * **Coins** * **Christening Spoons with Biblical words inscribed.** * **Prior to this discovery, it was believed that the Anglo-Saxons reign was a period where civilisation declined from the impressive rule of the Romans however the items found in the mound showed the Anglo-Saxons were great craftsmen and far more advanced and civilised than the term ‘dark ages’ suggests.** * **From the artefacts found we know the grave must have been for a very important person. It would have taken several people to move the ship from the river to the mound. Trees to have been chopped down to make the mound and a deep pit dug. The sceptre tells us he must have been a King. The spoons show he must have been Christian at some point, but the burial was pagan. The lavish items from all over the world show he was likely more than just a local king; he was probably a ‘super king’ or Bretwalda. A ship burial would also be reserved for only the very rich and important. Being buried in Suffolk suggests he has settled in East Anglia. Nobody can know for certain, but many people believe the King is King Raedwald who ruled the kingdom of East Anglia at this time in the early seventh century. Analysis of the sword and where it was worn suggests the owner was left-handed.** * The acidic soil decomposed the body so that only a human-shaped gap remained. There was no body. * Artefacts are a primary source and can therefore be considered highly reliable. Especially considering the scientific testing which has taken place on the artefacts and the soil around them confirming things such as – there was once a body in the tomb, the period the coins came from, the likelihood that the grave’s owner was left-handed, etc. | | Silverware, military, sceptre, artefacts, excavated, barrows, tumuli, burial mound, civilised, dark ages, Bretwalda, decomposed |
| Who was Alfred the great and why is he significant?  Describe the key events in the settlement of Britain by the Anglo Saxons.  Explain the struggle for the kingdom of England from Saxon times.  Significance | **Why was Alfred called ‘Alfred the Great’?**  How was Anglo-Saxon Britain ruled?  Who Was King Alfred?  What did he do to protect the people of England from Viking attack?  Why else is he seen as Great?  Who ruled after Alfred? | * British Monarchs throughout history have often been names after a characteristic people believe they had. Alfred was called ‘the great’ because of what he did for the Anglo-Saxon rule of Britain. * Anglo Saxon Britain was split in to 7 Kingdoms who initially all had their own king. * King Alfred was born in Berkshire in AD849. His father was Aethelwulf the King of Wessex. He was the youngest of 5 brothers, but all his brothers died. In AD871 he became King of Wessex. * At the time Alfred became King, the Vikings were attacking Anglo-Saxon Britain and trying to settle. They had been doing this since AD793. * **At the Battle of Ashdown in Ad 871, Alfred defeated the Vikings.** * **Later, in AD 878, King Guthrum of the Vikings, captured the town of Chippenham and lunched attacks on Wessex. The people of Wessex and Alfred, fled to Somerset.** * **Later still at the Batlle of Edington in 878AD, Alfred defeated Guthrum and his Viking army. He released that the battles were bad for the Vikings and the Anglo Saxons, so he suggested a peace treaty. This is called the Treaty of Wedmore. Guthrum was baptised as a Christian.** * **In AD 886 Alfred negotiated land boarders. The North and the East of England were given to the Vikings. This area become know as Danelaw. The Anglo Saxons had Wessex and Mercia. This enabled them to rule side by side.** * **Even after this, Viking attacks continued. Alfred protected the people by:** * **Marrying his daughter, Aethelflaed to the King of Mercia to build support.** * **Building fortresses across Wessex within 20 miles of any location.** * **Putting rotas in for his army so Wessex was always defended.** * Alfred the Great is also seen as great for: * Translating Latin documents to Anglo-Saxon so his people could learn. * Paying for the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (9 copies of which still exist) to be written which documents key events in Anglo-Saxon history. * Introducing laws to make the kingdom stable. * Growing the economy so more coins were produced. * Alfred died in AD899. After him, his son Edward (the elder) ruled and managed to regain lots of land from the Vikings. Next came King Aethelstan (Alfred’s grandson) in AD 924. He was the King of the Anglo Saxons in Ad 924 and then the King of the English from Ad 927 to 939. He was the first king of England as by then the Vikings had begun to lose power. Several Anglo Saxon and Viking kings later, the final Anglo-Saxon king was King Edward (the confessor) who was seen as a weak king which is why the Anglo-Saxons lost power in 1066 when the Norman’s conquered Britain. | | Monarchs, King Alfred the Great, King Edward the Elder, King Aethelstan, King Edward the confessor, Guthrum, treaty, treaty of Wedmore, fortresses, Danelaw, Mercia, Wessex, Anglo-Saxon Chronicles, Normans |
| How effective was Anglo-Saxon justice and how does it compare with justice now?  Similarity and difference | Who was in charge of Anglo-Saxon justice?  **How did the justice system work in Anglo- Saxon England?**  **What punishments happened in Anglo-Saxon justice?**  How is this similar or different to justice systems now? | * **Keeping law and order was the responsibility of everyone in the village as people in villages knew their neighbours well.** * Rules around Anglo-Saxon justice were decided by the king, but this wasn’t really established until around AD1,000 although King Alfred did begin to lay down laws earlier than this. * **If someone was seen committing a crime, then the witness could raise a hue and cry (shouting for help). Everyone who heard it was expected to help chase and capture the suspects.** * **There was a system in place called Tithing in which a group of ten men were made responsible for each other’s behaviour. If one of them broke the law, the other members of the tithing had to bring them to court. If they didn't, they would have to pay a fine.** * Every male over the age of twelve was expected to join a tithing. * The leader of the village would use the laws written by the King to decide what punishments you would receive. * **Trial by local jury. The jury would be made up of men from the tithing. They would listen to witnesses, the accused and the victim and decide who was telling the truth.** * **If they could not decide by jury, they would turn to God. This was called trial by ordeal and would take place in a church. The accused would fast for three days and have mass before their trial by ordeal. A priest would be present. If they recovered from their ordeal within 3 days, they believed God had forgiven them. The trial by ordeal could include:** * Trial by hot iron - The accused would hold a burning hot weight in their hand and then their hand would be bandaged. If after three days the wound had healed, it was believed that God had judged the person to be innocent. * Trial by hot water - The accused would put their hand into boiling hot water to pick up an object. Their hand would then be bandaged. If after three days the wound had healed, it was believed that God had judged the person to be innocent. * Trial by blessed bread - The accused would eat bread. If they ate the bread without choking, it was believed that God had judged the person to be innocent. * Trial by cold water - The accused was tied to a rope and lowered into water. If the accused floated, it was believed that the water had rejected them, and that God had therefore judged the person to be guilty. * **The Anglo-Saxons didn't have prisons. Most people found guilty of crimes were punished with fines or punishments such as stoning, hanging, drowning, whipping, mutilation, branding, stocks and exile.** * Some crimes, such as treason against the king or betraying your lord, were thought to be so serious that they carried the death penalty. Thie would be death by hanging. * Regular offenders were punished very harshly. If they were found guilty of stealing more than once they might have their hands cut off. Harsh punishments might include cutting off someone’s had, for example, if they kept stealing. Pillory and stocks were also used. * Wergild, which means blood price (for death) and botgild (for injuries) was a system of fines where, if you injured someone or killed them, the victim or their family received money. A broken tooth required 1 shilling, a broken nose 10 shillings, broken thigh required 12 shillings; loss of a thumb 20 shillings, loss of a foot 50 shillings, loss of an eye 50 shillings etc. If a person killed someone, they paid the wergild fine to the dead person's relatives. Before wergild was introduced, victims could choose their own way to punish criminals, including killing the accused if they had murdered someone. This was called a blood feud, but it just led to more violence. * The King set the fines and there was a system of payments, but this was unequal. For example, the fine for killing a prince was 1,500 shillings while the fine for killing a peasant was 40 shillings and the fine for killing a Welsh person was even lower! * More serious crime and crimes of nobles were dealt with at a witan. The Witan was the king’s court. | | Hue and cry, tithing, jury, court, priest, hot iron, witnesses, accused, treason, pillory, stocks, wergild, botgild, blood feud, mutilation, exile |
| End of unit check – complete end of unit check and answer the question ‘Who were the Anglo- Saxons and what was life like in Anglo-Saxon Britain?’ | | Jutes, Angles, Saxons, Vikings, Normans, Romans, kingdoms, Kentings, Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Wessex, Sussex, Kent, Essex, weaving, brewing ale, metal workers, chain mail, pagan, Christian, saints, sacrifice, Pope, Archbishop, conversion, silverware, military, sceptre, artefacts, excavated, barrows, tumuli, burial mound, civilised, dark ages, Bretwalda, decomposed, monarchs, King Alfred the Great, King Edward the Elder, King Aethelstan, King Edward the confessor, Guthrum, treaty, treaty of Wedmore, fortresses, Danelaw, Anglo-Saxon Chronicles, Normans, hue and cry, tithing, jury, court, priest, hot iron, witnesses, accused, treason, pillory, stocks, wergild, botgild, blood feud, mutilation, exile | | |