

Year 4 History Knowledge Organiser: The Anglo-Saxons

Subject Specific Vocabulary

archaeologist	People who discover our history by looking at artefacts that have been found.
Anglo-Saxon kingdoms	The Anglo-Saxons formed many regions each with one ruler, known as kingdoms.
shires	Saxon lands were divided into shires, which helped to make up the counties we have today
Shire reeve	The peace officer of a shire, later known as 'sheriff'.
thane	An important Anglo-Saxon person.
legacy	Anglo-Saxons left a legacy which included the language we speak, culture and politics. Many of the shires are our boundaries for counties today.
Wessex	Known today as Dorset, Hampshire, Somerset and Wiltshire.
Witan or witenagemot	A council that helped the Saxon king rule.
wergild	A fine imposed for stealing or killing.
churl	A lower-class Anglo-Saxon but better than a slave.
Mercia	Known today as East Anglia, Essex, Kent and Sussex.



Read all about it



Key Knowledge

1. The Anglo-Saxons were made up of three tribes: the Angles; Saxons; and Jutes.
2. The name 'Angles' eventually became 'English' and their land, 'Angle-land', became 'England'.
3. They came to Britain from across the North Sea in the middle of the 5th Century.
4. For a long time, England was not one country. Anglo-Saxon kings ruled lots of small kingdoms across the land.
5. The Anglo-Saxons were fierce people who fought many battles, including fighting each other.
6. The Anglo-Saxon period ended when the Normans conquered Britain in 1066.

Anglo-Saxon Settlements

