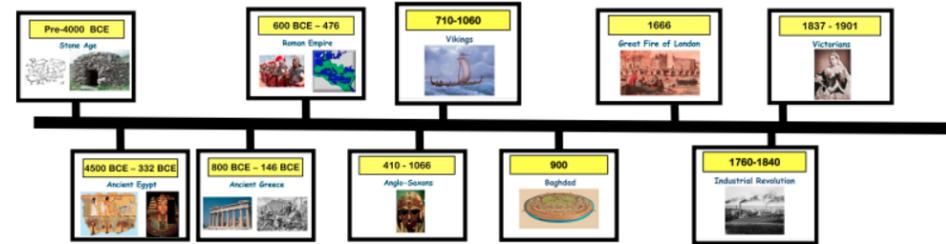




Anglo Saxons

prior learning - the Romans in Britain



Key Vocabulary

Archaeology - finding out about the past, often by digging for things left behind from ancient peoples

Colonised - when a land is invaded, and then the "invaders" lived there and ruled it

Danegeld - Money that the Saxons paid the Vikings

Invade - to enter and occupy land

Kingdom - an area ruled by a king

Longship - a long, wooden, narrow boat used by the Vikings

Outlawed - having all property taken away and no longer being able to live in the community

Post hole - when a pole supporting a house has rotted away, it leaves a trace in the soil which is a different colour

Pagans - a religion where many gods and goddesses are worshipped

Pillaged - to violently steal something

Raid - a surprise attack

Romano British - people who were Celtic, Roman or a mixture of both who were living in Britain when the Saxons invaded

Wergild - A payment system used to settle disputed between a criminal and the victim of their family

Was Anglo Saxon justice "fair"?

Saxon punishments were harsh and often violent. As there were no police in those days, Saxon people relied on bizarre trials based on superstitions.

What were the Seven Kingdoms?

By about 600 CE the Anglo Saxons ruled England (Angle-land) not Scotland, Wales or Cornwall. England was split into seven areas known as kingdoms.

- Essex
- Wessex
- Sussex
- Northumbria
- Mercia
- East Anglia
- Kent

How do we know what an Anglo Saxon house was like?

Documentary evidence e.g. the Bayeux Tapestry, archeological evidence. Saxons could not live in the Roman towns because they could not organise repairs, transportation, fresh drinking water, sewage etc. instead, they lived in small villages in houses made of wood, thatch and wattle and daub. Because these are all biodegradable materials, we have very little evidence of their houses and settlements.

Key Dates

410 CE - Romans left

By around 600 CE - Anglo Saxons Rule most of England (7 Kingdoms)

793 CE - Vikings invade Lindisfarne

1066 CE - Harold Godwinson, last Saxon King, killed at the Battle of Hastings