

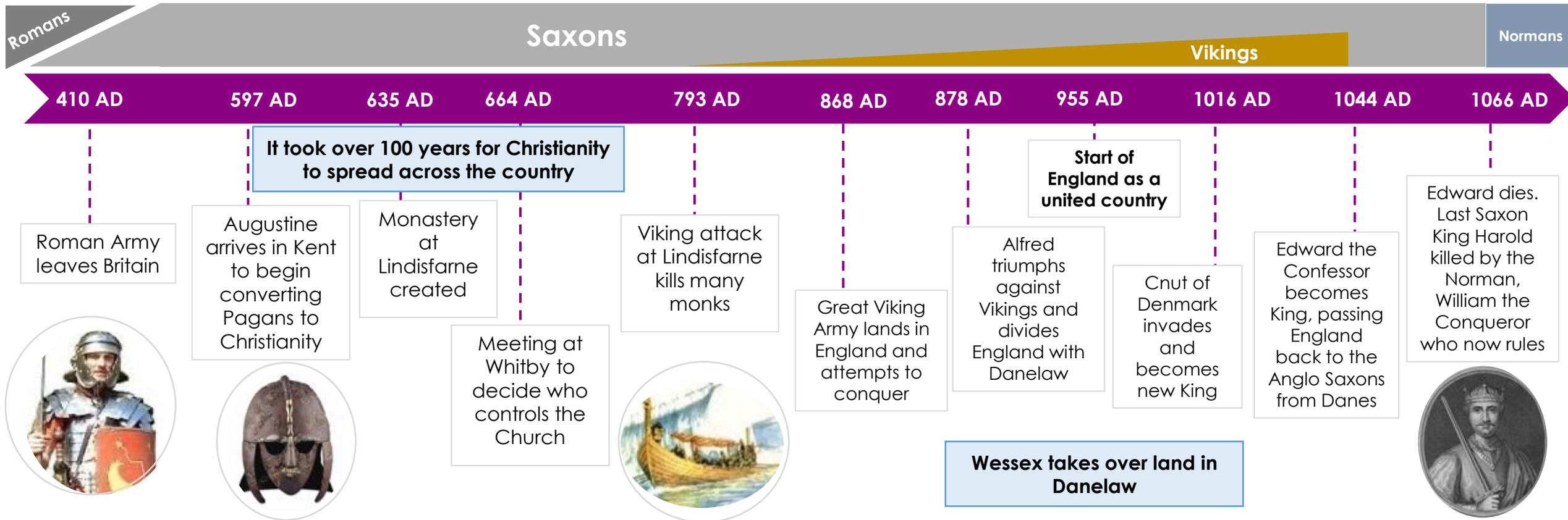
Anglo-Saxons

As a historian I can....



Why this period is important

During this period England emerged as a recognisable nation and Christianity became established. The recent coronation of Charles III is the latest for a king of England : over a thousand years ago, that of the Saxon King Edgar was the first. King Alfred was the central Saxon figure, the only king to be called 'Great'. He was responsible for defeating the Vikings who threatened to control the country for many years through raids and then attempts to conquer. The Saxon period is often called the Dark Ages but many think this is unfair as the Saxons were skilled craftsmen who introduced new long-lasting systems of keeping law and order as well as memorable literature.





Key questions

KQ1a
Why did the Saxons invade?
KQ1b
Where did the early Anglo-Saxons live and how do we know?

KQ2
Who was the owner of the mystery ship burial at Sutton Hoo?

KQ3
How did people's lives change when Christianity came to Britain?

KQ4
How did the Vikings try to take over the country and how close did they get?

KQ5
Alfred the Great. How great was he?

KQ6
How effective was Anglo-Saxon justice?

KQ7
Were Saxon times really 'Dark' Ages?

Who's who?

Alfred	King of Wessex, known as the Great, ruled 871-899
Asser	Man who wrote flattering life history of Alfred
Augustine	In the late 6th century, he was sent from Rome to England to bring Christianity to the Anglo-Saxons.
Bede	He wrote a very important book on the early history of Britain,
Burhs	Forts built in 9th century to defend against Viking raids
Gildas	6th century monk who wrote a history of Britain before and during Saxon period
Guthrum	Danish leader and King of East Anglia who fought against Alfred, later christened Athelstan
Hengist and Horsa	Leaders who some people think arrived to take over Britain in AD449.
Raedwald	King of East Anglia died about 625AD
Vortigern	King of the Britons at the time of the arrival of the Saxons under Hengist and Horsa in the 5th century

Key vocabulary

Cemetery	Burial place
Cenotaph	Empty grave to remember someone important buried elsewhere
Christianity	Religion based on life and teachings of Jesus Christ which came to Britain in Saxon times
Danelaw	Name given to northern and eastern part of Britain under Danish control from 9th to 11th century
Hoard	Store of money often hidden away to come back to later
Hypothesis	Theory that has to be tested
Monastery	Large religious building where monks lived and prayed
Pagan	Word used to describe people who didn't follow one of the main religions
Picts	Group of people who lived in part of Britain what we think of as Scotland
Sceptre	Looks like a stick richly decorated, carried by kings only
Settlement	Place people moved to live in
Sutton Hoo	Site of very important archaeological excavation in 1939.
Treaty	A formal, legally binding written agreement
Turning point	Time when things changed suddenly
Urn	Container for ashes
Viking	Name given to people from Scandinavia who raided traded and settled in Britain between the 9th and 11th centuries
Wergild	Fine to be paid to someone's family if a member was killed or injured

Top takeaways



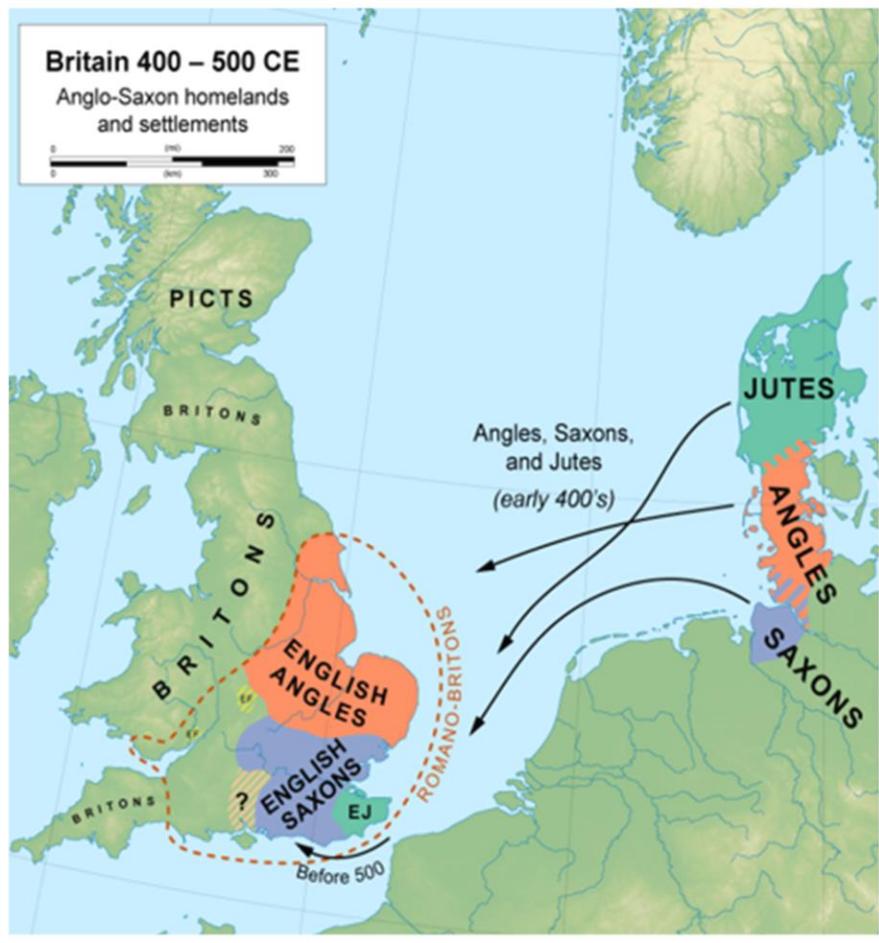
Having studied this topic you should be able to understand:

1. the reasons why the Anglo-Saxons invaded
2. that it was during this time that England became united, with Wessex as the leading kingdom.
3. that it was at this time that England became a Christian country.
4. that King Alfred was the only English king to be given the name 'Great' and know why not everybody agrees that he deserves it
5. that the Saxons were frequently under attack from the Vikings until Alfred defeated them and they settled in the Danelaw area to the north and east
6. It was during this period that there were better laws and a flowering of literature.

Britain 400-500

7 kingdoms before 878

After 878





Previous Learning

In Year 1 and Year 2

- Children learn how technology and daily life changed over time. Great Fire of London caused widespread destruction and led to city planning reforms. Use of diaries and sources of evidence.

In Year 3

- Children learn how early people lived, farmed, built settlements and developed tools. Stone Age huts

In Year 4

- The idea of empire, invasion and the beginning of urbanisation. Romans invaded Britain, Roman control was centralised and empire-led. Resistance of Boudicca vs Romans. Use of artefacts coins, villas, Latin inscriptions

Future Learning

In Year 6

- Children learn the impact of invasion, evacuation and migration during World War Two.
- Children learn about resistance movements.
- Role of empire soldiers, including Black and Asian troops from the Commonwealth. Interpreting sources
- Children learn about migration stories from Africans in Roman Britain, the Windrush, building a broader understanding of how Britain's population has always been diverse.
- Children are evaluating bias, perspective and reliability.