

## Knowledge Organiser- History – Year 4 – Spring 1 2026

### Amazing Anglo-Saxons

#### STICKY KNOWLEDGE

The Anglo Saxons invaded for a variety of reasons including: to get more land for farming, move to a better climate, their land was flooded and there was not enough food.

The Anglo Saxons settled in most of the country, apart from Scotland, Wales and Cornwall.

Sutton Hoo is a key historical site with artefacts such as helmet, scepter, shield and sword.

The Anglo-Saxons had 6 main methods of keeping law and order. Some were trial by cold water, tithings and blood feud.

Anglo Saxons were pagan before the opening of Cuthbert's coffin, which signalled the return of Christianity.

Alfred the Great was considered great because he was the founder of the navy, defeated the Vikings and was a lawmaker.

Some historians refer to the Saxons as the Dark Ages because it was a time of bloodshed with tribes fighting each other especially after the Romans left Britain

#### KEY VOCABULARY

Anglo-Saxons

A group of people who settled in England coming from Denmark, Netherlands and Northern Germany

Christianity

A religious movement that returned to Britain

Beowulf

A fictional character from a story told by Anglo-Saxons to each other

Alfred the Great

A famous Anglo-Saxon King who fought against the Vikings

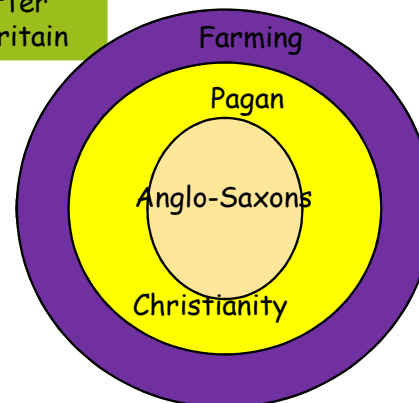
Sutton Hoo

A burial site where a longship was found with a king buried inside and his possessions.

Geld Tax

A tax paid by citizens to pay the soldiers who were fighting the Vikings

Anglo-Saxon houses



#### Key Historical Figure: King Alfred the Great

- Alfred the Great was King of Wessex from 871 to 886 and later King of the Anglo-Saxons
- He spent years fighting Viking invasions, eventually winning a great victory at the Battle of Edington
- His statue stands at the heart of a number of southern English towns such as Wantage where he was born over 1000 years ago