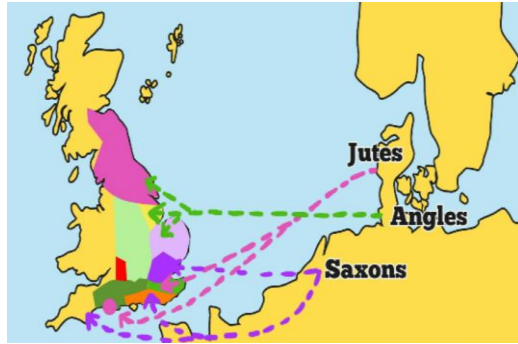


Who were the greatest – Anglo Saxons or Vikings?

Anglo- Saxon Kingdoms of England



- Northumbria
- Mercia
- Lindsey
- East Saxons
- East Angles
- Hwicca
- Kent
- West Saxons
- South Saxons

Anglo Saxon Timeline

- 410AD – The Roman soldiers that had been occupying Britain withdraw. This leaves Britain largely undefended, and soon the Anglo Saxons begin to arrive.
- 600AD – During the 600's the Saxons gradually take over the land we now call England. The country is split into Northumbria (North), Mercia (middle), East Anglia (east) and Wessex (south).
- 793AD – The Vikings attack from Norway. They attack the Monastery of Lindisfarne in Northumbria. This is just a raid, they will return to invade later.
- 871AD – Alfred the Great becomes King of Wessex. He drives the invading Vikings from the south but they stay in the north and the east.
- 924AD – Alfred the Great's grandson, Athelstan, becomes King of Wessex. In 927 he conquers the last kingdom, York, and becomes the first king of England.
- 937AD – Athelstan's rule is resented by the Welsh, Scots, Irish and Vikings and they work together to destroy his rule. Athelstan defeats the rebels and he and the Saxons defeat them in battle.
- 939AD- Athelstan dies and the Vikings, led by Olaf Guthfrithsson invade England and take back the North.
- 1066AD –The Battle of Hastings- Edward the Confessor dies and Harold, Earl of Wessex, is crowned King of England. Both William, Duke of Normandy and Harold Hardrada, King of Norway, send powerful threats and make claims on the throne. Harold is defeated by William the Conqueror and his Norman army.

Beowulf

- Beowulf is a famous epic poem.
- 'Epic' means very long poem about heroes and warriors.
- Beowulf is one of the first recorded stories we have in Britain and it was written in Old English.
- Beowulf is the hero of a Scandinavian tribe, the Geats, and the tale tells of his battle with a monster called Grendel.



Characters

Characters	
Beowulf	The hero of the story from Geatland
Hrothgar	the King of Denmark
Grendel	a monster believed to be a descendent of Cain
Grendel's Mother	a hag who lives in a swamp
Wiglaf	a young kinsman of Beowulf
Denmark	where the Danes lived
Geatland	where the Geats lived
Heorot	Hrothgar's hall

Who were the greatest – Anglo Saxons or Vikings?

Prior Knowledge

In year 3 we learned about:
 Stone Age 45,000BC – 2,300BC
 Bronze Age 2,300BC - 700BC
 Iron Age 700BC – 43AD
 Romans 43AD – 410AD

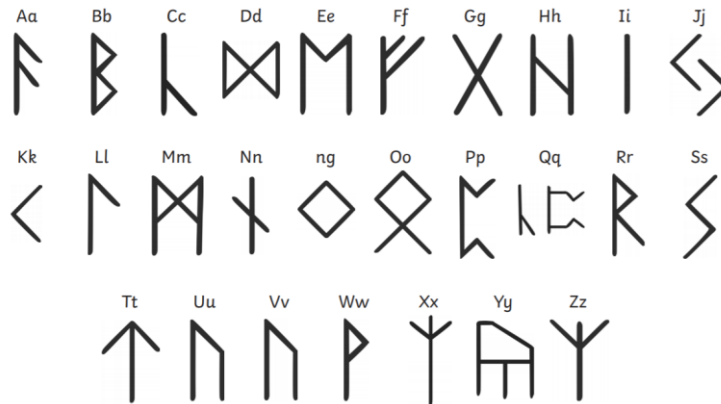


Alfred the Great

Alfred the Great was the King of Wessex from AD871 to AD899. Alfred is the only English monarch to have the title 'the Great' after his name. This was probably due to the fact that under his reign, Britain managed to prevent Viking invasion and he had a reputation for being a clever and merciful king who really wanted to improve his people's lives.



Anglo Saxon Runes



Settlements

- There are many towns and villages that date back to the Anglo-Saxon times, indicating that there should be remains of Saxon buildings in the ground. Unfortunately, archaeologists cannot reach them.
- Houses were built from oak and thatch and we know this from having made such excavations. Though the wood and reeds had rotten away, post holes could still be found in the ground. The holes tell us about the method the Saxons used to build houses. They would place wooden posts around the outline of the house and then attach planks of wood around a framework. The roofs were then thatched with reeds.



Gods and Goddesses

Eostre

- Eostre was the goddess who was worshipped during Eostremonath (April).
- Eostremonath is associated with rebirth and the giving of eggs.
- Her symbol is the hare.
- People would pray to Eostre to ask for good fortune in the coming summer months.
- It is thought that Pagans offered hot cross buns to Eostre during Eostremonath and the four quarters represented the quarters of the moon.



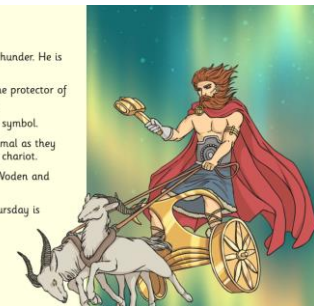
Woden

- Woden was the chief of the Anglo-Saxon gods.
- He was the god of battle and war.
- Woden was also believed to be the observer of humans and the Anglo-Saxons thought he may visit them in disguise.
- His special animal was the wolf and he had two wolves as pets.
- His special object was a spear.
- The day of the week Wednesday was named after him.



Thunor

- Thunor was the god of thunder. He is also known as Thor.
- Thunor was known as the protector of humans against threats.
- He has a hammer as his symbol.
- Goats are his special animal as they were believed to pull his chariot.
- Thunor was the son of Woden and Frigg.
- The day of the week Thursday is named after him.



Frigg

- Frigg was the wife of Woden.
- She was the goddess of the household and childbirth and people would pray to her to ask for a good birth.
- Her name means 'beloved'.
- Her symbols are the stork and the spinning wheel.
- The day of the week Friday is named after her.

