



The Anglo Saxons KS2 - Knowledge Organiser

| Key Events and Facts | |
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| Who were the Anglo- Saxons? | The Angle, Saxon and Jute are known as the Anglo- Saxons. The Angles and the Saxon tribes were the largest of the three attacking tribes and so we often know them as the Anglo- Saxons. |
| Where did the Anglo- Saxons originate from? | The Anglo- Saxons were warrior farmers and came from the north-western Europe. They started to invade Britain while the Romans were still in control. |
| What was found in their graves? | Knives and spears were often found in Anglo- Saxon men's graves. This says they were involved in hunting, fighting and farming. |
| How big were the armies and what weapons did they carry? | Anglo- Saxon armies were usually small, with only a hundred men. The soldiers have spears, axes, swords, bows and arrows. |
| Famous Anglo- Saxons | |
| Alfred the Great | <p>His father was king of Wessex, but by the end of Alfred's reign his coins referred to him as 'King of the English'.</p> <p>He fought the Vikings and then made peace so that English and Vikings settled down to live together. He encouraged people to learn and he tried to govern well and fairly. Alfred became king in AD871 when his elder brother died.</p> <p>During his reign he was advised by a council of nobles and church leaders. This council was called the Witan.</p> <p>Alfred made good laws and believed education was important. He had books translated from Latin into English, so people could read them. He also told monks to begin writing the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle.</p> <p>To help protect his kingdom from Viking attacks, Alfred built forts and walled towns known as 'burhs'. He also built warships to guard the coast from raiders and organised his army into two parts. While half the men were at home on their farms, the rest were ready to fight Vikings.</p> <p>Alfred died in 899 and was buried at his capital city of Winchester.</p> |
| Athelstan | <p>Athelstan was Alfred the Great's grandson. He reigned between AD925 and AD939 and was the very first 'King of all England'.</p> <p>Athelstan was a successful soldier. In AD920 he took York from the Vikings and pushed the boundaries of England.</p> <p>One of Athelstan's most famous victories was at the Battle of Brunanburh. He defeated an invasion by the king of Scotland, who attacked with help from the Welsh and the Danes from Dublin.</p> <p>Athelstan wasn't just a soldier though: he worked hard to make his kingdom strong by writing laws and encouraging trade.</p> |

