



KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

HISTORY: ANGLO SAXONS

Y5 AUTUMN TERM

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS:	
DATE	WHAT HAPPENED
410 AD	Roman rule in Britain ends
450 AD	Angles and Saxons invade
597 AD	St Augustine comes to Britain
633 AD	Lindisfarne monastery built
789 AD	First Viking attack
793 AD	Lindisfarne (Viking raid)
867-878 AD	Series of Viking victories
886 AD	Viking and Alfred divide England
899 AD	King Alfred dies
1066 AD	Battle of Hastings

KEY VOCABULARY:	
WORDS	MEANING
Burh (burgh)	a well-defended Saxon town
Christianity	a religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ
Hoard	items buried and left, possibly for safekeeping
Interpretation	one person's view of an event in history
Invasion	attacking and conquering another country
Martyr	someone who dies for what they believe in
Missionary	a person who goes to a different country to spread a religion, usually Christianity

KEY KNOWLEDGE:	
QUESTION 1: Why did the Anglo Saxons invade England?	
ANSWER Historians are not sure why the Anglo Saxons came to Britain. Some say that the Saxons were invited to come to England to help to keep invaders from Scotland and Ireland out. Additionally, their lands often flooded and it was difficult to grow crops so they were looking for somewhere to farm and settle.	
QUESTION 2: Why did Vortigern invite Saxons to live on his land?	
ANSWER Vortigern invited the Saxons as, following the departure of the Romans, they were coming under attack from the Celts. He hired them as mercenaries but they rebelled and formed their own kingdom.	
QUESTION 3: When did Christianity come to Anglo Saxon England?	
ANSWER About 1400 years ago, the Pope in Rome sent a message to England to persuade the Anglo-Saxons to become Christian. The Augustine landed in the South and converted King Ethelbert of Kent and his people. He built a church and Christianity then spread to other parts of Britain.	
QUESTION 4: Who was King Offa?	
ANSWER One of the most famous Anglo-Saxon Kings was Offa, who was the King of Mercia from AD 757 to AD 796. He made the first pennies.	



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KEY PEOPLE:	
NAME	WHAT THEY DID
Alfred the Great	King who stopped the Vikings taking control of Britain 886 AD
St Augustine	Sent as a missionary to convert England to Christianity 597 AD
King Offa	King of Mercia from AD 757 – AD 796
King Harold	Died during the Battle of Hastings in 1066 following the death of King Edward the Conqueror in January 1066.

SUGGESTED WEBSITES TO FIND OUT MORE:
www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/2xsbcdm
www.natgeokinds.com/uk/discover/history/general-history/anglo-saxons