

Anglo-Saxon Knowledge

Organiser

Time period: Approximately-
449 AD-1066 AD



Reasons for coming to Britain

- Romans had left making it easy to attack.
- Natural resources- Iron, Silver, Gold, Wood
- Power
- Expand their Empire
- Fertile Land to grow crops

Food and Drink

- Bread, Porridge
- **Vegetables** - carrots, parsnip, cabbages, peas, beans and onions.
- **Fruit** - such as apples, cherries and plums
- Fish, Meat (Boar and Deer)
- Ale and Mead- Beer made from honey



Key Words

Blacksmith- Works with metal
Carpenter- Works with wood
Weaver/Spinner- Makes clothes
Thane- Village leader
Convert- To change
Pagan- Person who worships many Gods
Fertile land- Land good for growing food

Entertainment

Music- Harp, Trumpet, Flute, Horn, Drum.
Sport- Wrestling, Weight Lifting, Horse Racing, Swimming, Ball games.
Story Telling- Usually fantasy involving- Heroes, Monsters, Dragons.
Feasts
Riddles
Wooden Toys for Children
Games- Dice games, Chess, Draughts.

Jobs

- Builder
- Farmer
- Blacksmith
- Leather Worker
- Weaver
- Carpenter
- Dyer
- Spinner
- Bone Worker
- Minstrel (Musician)
- Wood Cutter

Skills

Fighting- Swords, Axes, Spears, Javelins, Bow and Arrow, Shields.
Building
Farming- Growing crops and caring for animals
Making things- Using Wood, Metal, Leather and even bone.
Textiles- Making Clothes

Clothes

Usually very simple designs.
Dyed using plants- Red, Yellow, Green, Blue, Orange.
Made from wool or linen.

Religion

Paganism

When the Anglo Saxons arrived in Britain they were Pagan, this meant they believed in lots of different Gods and Goddesses who were all in charge of different parts of life.

Anglo Saxon Gods/Goddesses

Woden- Chief God
Bealdor- God of Light
Thunor- God of Thunder
Frigg- Goddess of Love
Tiw- God of War

Christianity

In 597AD, the Pope sent Augustus to convert the Anglo Saxons to Christianity. Over the next 100 years, Britain gradually changed from Pagan to Christian.

Christian Belief

One God.
Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
Heaven and Hell.
Go to Church.
Pray to God.
The Pope in Rome is the head of the Church.

Kings (some of the them)

ALFRED THE GREAT 871 – 899

CANUTE (CNUT THE GREAT) THE DANE 1016 – 1035

HAROLD I (Harold Harefoot) 1035 – 1040

EDWARD THE CONFESSOR 1042-1066

HAROLD II 1066



Villages

Usually situated by Forests as a source of wood and Rivers/Streams for fresh water.
Usually very small- no more than a few hundred people.
High fences around the village to keep out enemies/ wild animals.
Would have a 'Hall' which would be where the Thane would live and for the warriors.

Houses

Made from wood with thatched roofs.
Only one room in the house where everyone ate, cooked, slept and entertained their friends.
Built facing the sun to get as much heat and light as possible.