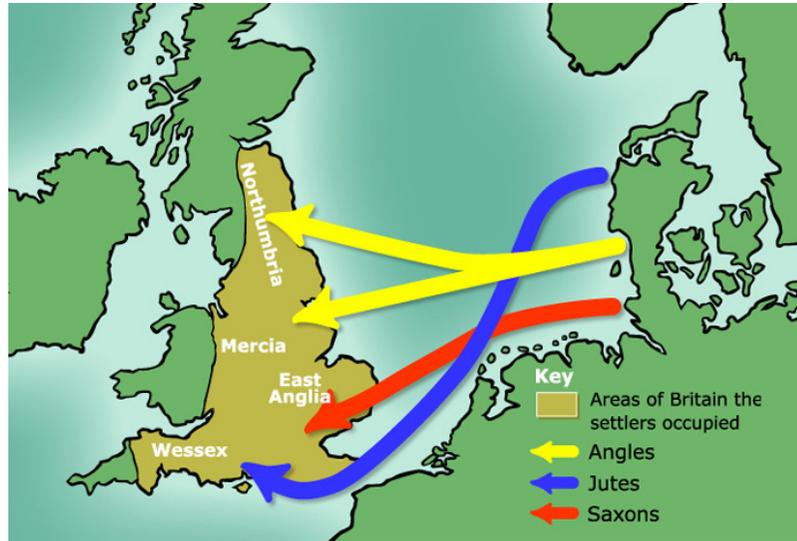


Lower Key Stage 2 - Forest Academy  
 Knowledge organiser – Anglo-Saxons and the Scots

The last Roman soldiers left Britain in 410. New people came in ships across the North Sea – the Anglo-Saxons. The Anglo-Saxon age in Britain was from around AD410 to 1066. They were a mix of tribes from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. The three biggest were the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes. The land they settled in was 'Angle-land', or England.



Key vocabulary

<b>Angles</b>	Tribes from modern day Denmark
<b>Christianity</b>	A religion based on the teachings of Jesus.
<b>missionary</b>	A person from a religion sent to spread the faith.
<b>Pagan</b>	A religion that involves worshipping many gods and goddesses.
<b>Picts</b>	Tribes originally from Scotland who were 'foul' and had a 'lust for blood'.
<b>Romans</b>	The Romans invaded and settled in Britain for over 400 years, starting with their first successful raid in 54 BC.
<b>Saxons</b>	German – Dutch tribes who settled in Britain from around 450 AD.
<b>Scots</b>	People from Ireland, who, like the Picts, were fierce and powerful fighters.

By around 410 AD, the last of the **Romans** had returned home and left Britain vulnerable to invasions. Irish **Scots** invaded Scotland. The **Picts** and **Scots** were a constant threat to Britain especially without the **Romans** for support.



The **Picts** and **Scots** were powerful fighters so the British king asked his two brothers to come over from modern day Denmark to help keep the **Picts** and **Scots** out. Hengest and Horsa were happy to help and successfully avoided any invasions.

Hengest and Horsa brought over more warriors and began to settle in Britain, pushing the British out. Other tribes also invaded Britain including the **Angles** and **Saxons**, known as the Anglo-Saxons. In about 600 AD, many of the British people were taken as slaves or were forced to escape.



Many areas, towns and villages in Britain are named after the Anglo-Saxons who first settled here.



The early Anglo-Saxons were **Pagans**. They would worship gods during festivals and make sacrifices of objects and animals. They were also very superstitious and believed in good and bad omens, lucky charms, spells and magic. They would perform many rituals that they believed would protect them in this life and the next.



In 597 AD, a **Roman** monk was sent to tell the Anglo-Saxons about **Christianity**.

The King of Kent was the first to be converted and was baptised along with 10,000 of his subjects

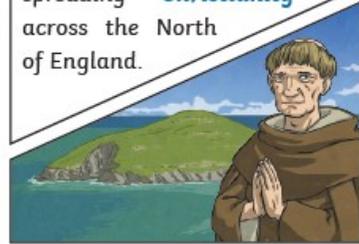
Over the next 100 years, the rest of Britain converted to **Christianity** too.

Oswald gave Aiden the island of Lindisfarne where he built a monastery. This Holy Island was very influential, and the monks here were successful at spreading **Christianity** across the North of England.

Many Irish people were also teaching the religion and **missionaries** were sent to Scotland and England to encourage even more people to follow the religion.

One Irish monk, Columba, was successful in introducing **Christianity** to Scotland. He founded a very important abbey on the Island of Iona, just off the west coast of Scotland.

Other influential monks included Aiden, who was sent from Iona to Northumbria to help King Oswald to spread the word about **Christianity**.



### St Edmund of East Anglia

It is said that Saint Edmund, King and Martyr, was the original Patron Saint of England, long before Saint George.

Edmund was born on Christmas day in the year 841. Long ago, England was divided into many small nations, like 'Mercia', 'Wessex' in the south of England, and 'Anglia' in the east. Many times these small nations had to defend their lands from invaders like the Vikings who came to steal their things and cause trouble.



Do you recognise this sculpture?

A Christian from birth, Edmund was crowned king of East Anglia in 856 when he was only 15 years old. He was soon called upon by his people to defend the kingdom from the troublesome Vikings, but he was soon captured by a hideous Viking warlord known as 'Ivar the Boneless' who tried to get Edmund to give up his Christian faith and bow down to the Viking gods. Edmund refused saying that; 'his religion was dearer to him than his life'.

To see if this was true or not, Ivar and his followers beat him with heavy clubs as he called out to Jesus. Then they tied him to a tree, and shot arrows into poor Edmund, until he was dead. If that wasn't enough, finally they chopped off his head and threw it into a Bramble bush.

Edmund was eventually buried in Bedricsworth (now modern Bury St Edmunds), where an Abbey was built. You can go and visit the ruins!



Have you been to Abbey Gardens in Bury St Edmunds?

### Sutton Hoo Ship Burial

Much of what we know about the Anglo-Saxons comes from graves like the one discovered at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk.

Near the River Deben in Suffolk, at Sutton Hoo, are eleven mounds or 'barrows' dating back to the 7th century. In 1939, archaeologists explored the largest mound and discovered a ship buried in the mound. The ship was 27 metres long and 4.25 meters wide. It would have taken about 20 oarsmen on each side to row it! The ship had been put there and used as a grave.

Archeologists think that the ship was dragged to the top of the hill from the river below. It was then placed in a ditch that had been specially dug for it.

A hut had been built in the middle of the ship, and the coffin and many treasures would have been placed inside.



It was believed that the personal possessions and weapons of the person buried with the ship would then go with them to the afterlife.



It is very likely that the person buried in the ship was a Saxon king, as only the most powerful people were buried in ship.

