Year 4: History
Autumn 2
Anglo-Saxons & Vikings



Key Knowledge

The Anglo Saxons travelled from Germany and South Denmark and invaded and settled in Britain after the Romans left AD450.

The Vikings had left Scandinavia to set out on expedition to raid, trade and settle in Britain.

The Vikings were great traders and skilled seafarers. Most were skilled at farming, fishing, craftwork and hunting.

King Alfred of Wessex, also known as Alfred the Great, initially fought the Vikings, also known as the Danes. Then peace was agreed and the country was divided into Wessex and the Danelaw. These would eventually be united into a united English kingdom.

As a result, from the conflict between the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, two new kingdoms grew and Scotland and England became firmly established.

Anglo-Saxon kings ruled England as well as Danish kings. The Viking and Anglo-Saxon rule ended in 1066, during the Battle of Hastings.

We know about the Anglo-Saxons because archaeologists have excavated settlements and discovered artefacts which give clues or tell us what life was like during this time.

Key Vocabulary

Angles	Danelaw
Anglo-Saxon	Christianity
Archaeologist	Invasion
Viking	Jutes
Danelaw	Migration
Christianity	Monastery
Invasion	Monk
Danelaw	Pagan
Christianity	Picts
	Scots

Learning questions

Why did the Anglo-Saxons invade and how do we know where they settled?

What does the mystery of the empty grave tell us about Saxon Britain?

How did people's lives change when Christianity came to Britain and how can we be sure?

How were the Saxons able to see off the Viking threat?

Why is King Alfred known as 'Alfred the great'?

How effective was Saxon justice?