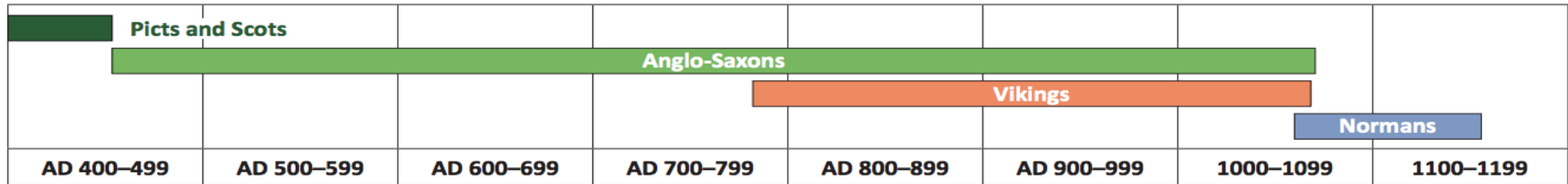


Year 4: History Invasion Knowledge Organiser



Timeline showing the periods of invasion and settlement in Britain from AD 410–1199

Subject Specific Vocabulary

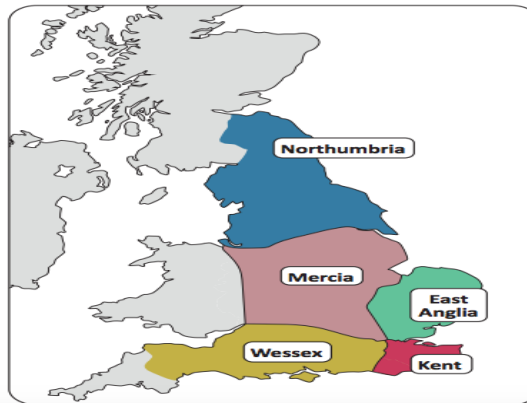
Christianity	a religion based upon the teachings of Jesus Christ
conquer	overcome and take control of a place or people
<i>Danegeld</i>	a tax collected from the Anglo-Saxon people paid to the Viking invaders in exchange for peace
invasion	when a foreign army enters a country by force
monastery	a building where monks live, work, study and pray, separate from the outside world
monk	to member of a male religious community who lives in a monastery
pagan	a person who believes in many gods, or does not follow one of the world's major religions
raid	a sudden attack, which aims to cause damage
reeve	a local official in Anglo-Saxon England
Scandinavia	an area of Europe, which includes Sweden, Norway and Denmark
wattle and daub	a traditional building material made from woven twigs or sticks and mud

After the Romans

After the Romans left Britannia in AD 410, many towns fell into disrepair and the country became vulnerable to attack. This marked the beginning of a period of invasions from different groups: Picts and Scots from Scotland and Ireland; Anglo-Saxons from Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark; Vikings from Scandinavia and Normans from France. This time in history is called the early Middle Ages

Invasion

The Picts and Scots tried to invade England after AD 410, because the Britons were undefended. In AD 449, a British leader, Vortigern, asked Hengist and Horsa, two Jutes, to come to England to help the Britons. However, the Jutes realised that the land in England was good for farming, so they, along with the Angles and Saxons, invaded England.



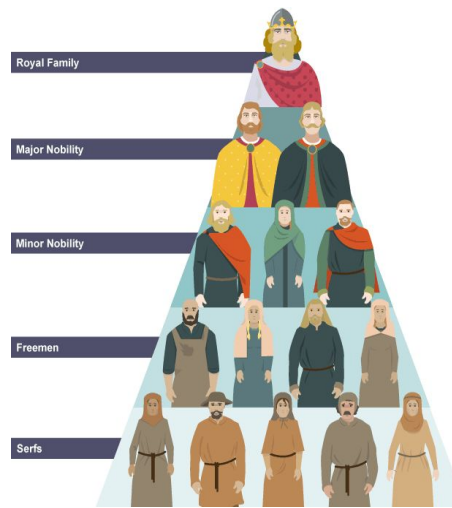
The five English kingdoms cAD 800

Settlement

The Anglo-Saxons invaded the east and south coasts of England and pushed the Celtic Britons west. They split England into seven kingdoms, which became known as the heptarchy. The rulers of these kingdoms fought each other for land and power. By AD 800, there were five main kingdoms: East Anglia, Kent, Mercia, Northumbria and Wessex. Celtic Britons still lived in Wales, Cornwall, Scotland and Ireland.

Hierarchy

Anglo-Saxon society had a hierarchy, with a king at the top. Landowners, called thegns, were below the king and peasant farmers worked on the thegn's land. Slaves were at the bottom of the hierarchy. Most Anglo-Saxons were farmers or craftspeople. They lived in homes made from wood or wattle and daub, with a single room and central fireplace. Settlements were surrounded by high fences to protect animals and villages from thieves and attack.



Sutton Hoo burial

Sutton Hoo is in England's Valley of the Kings, and the Anglo-Saxon ship burial found in King's Mound is the richest burial ever found in Northern Europe. 1,400 years ago, a king or a great warrior of East Anglia was laid to rest in a 90ft ship, surrounded by his extraordinary treasures.



Everyday life of the Vikings

The Vikings lived in a similar way to Anglo-Saxons. Most Vikings were farmers or craftspeople, but they were also warriors who carried out frequent raids. Men and boys trained in boat building, weapon making, crafts and combat. They lived in longhouses, with a central fire and thatched roof.

Alfred the Great



Alfred the Great was the King of Wessex from AD 871 – 899. He defeated the Viking leader, Guthrum at the Battle of Edington in AD 876. He made peace with Guthrum and insisted that he was baptised as a Christian. Alfred the Great split England into Viking Danelaw and Anglo-Saxon Wessex.

King Athelstan



Athelstan was the son of Edward the Elder and grandson of Alfred the Great. He reigned between 925 and 939 AD. A distinguished and courageous soldier, he pushed the boundaries of the kingdom to the furthest extent they had yet reached. In 927 AD he took York from the Danes, and forced the submission of Constantine, King of Scotland and of the northern kings.



Links to prior learning

The Roman invasion of Britain.

There are still aspects of life in modern England that date back to the Anglo-Saxons, including the English language, the rule of law, place names, Christianity and even the layout of England itself.