

History

Who were the Anglo-Saxons?

Book: Anglo-Saxon Raiders and Settlers

Pages 6-15

Students: Fill in the answers and return for assessment

Everything here is based on our Curriculum Visions book Anglo-Saxon raiders and settlers.

You can open this book online now by clicking on the book cover. It will open in a new window or tab.

In this segment, we are going to think about who the Anglo-Saxons were and where they came from. We will also see how the Anglo-Saxons changed over time from raiders looking for plunder, to settlers in Britain.

You will need to go to pages 6-7 of the book.

Part 1

The Anglo-Saxons came to Britain as raiders. There were many groups of these Anglo-Saxon raiders and they came from different places. Use the map on page 7 to find three of these groups and locate the places where they came from and where in Britain they went. Give some of the reasons why they came to Britain.

Answer ...

Groups on the map: Angles, Saxons, Jutes - see map for locations of each group. You may want students to compare the map on page 5 with a modern map to see the countries in Europe where the Anglo-Saxons came from and the places in Britain they went to.

Reasons why they came include gaining wealth and slaves, to gain new lands

Now turn to pages 7-8

Part 2

What are three types of places where the Anglo-Saxons chose to settle in, and why? How do archaeologists know that many Christian British people lived alongside the pagan Anglo-Saxons?

Answer ...

Places that were easy to defend - an island in a river, inside a river curve, the angle where two rivers meet

They analysed what was contained in the graves - the presence of grave goods indicated pagan Anglo-Saxons and the absence of grave goods indicated Christian Britons.

Now turn to pages 9-10

Part 3

Read the text on these pages. Now look at a map of the area where you live, around where you live or another part of Britain. First tell what area you are looking at. What places have names that came from Anglo-Saxon words? What places have names that may have come from the names of tribes? What places have names that tell about the landscape?

Answer ...

Students' own answers. Depending on where you are located, you may want to steer students to parts of the country with a lot of Anglo-Saxon names.

Now turn to pages 11-12

Part 4

When the Anglo-Saxons first came to Britain, they were pagans. What were two of their beliefs? How did the Anglo-Saxons become Christians?

Answer ...

They believed in many gods and goddesses / that they were directly descended from the gods / that to die in battle meant you could enter Valhalla
They were converted over time

Now turn to pages 13-14

Part 5

Why is it difficult to know accurately what happened in early Anglo-Saxon times? Where does a lot of the information that we have come from? What are the names of three of the most important accounts of this time?

Answer ...

There were few written records / it was a time of war
Bede's The Ecclesiastical History of the English People / the Lindisfarne Gospels / the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles

That is the end of this webcast, and you can now turn to another one. Also, find out if your teacher has left you any other worksheets or special instructions on your school website.

If you are

interested in this topic, continue to browse the book and watch our amazing videos. They start right on the book cover. Or you may want to go and hear the Anglo-Saxons in action by visiting our 'fly on the wall' Eavesdrop section. You can hear what Anglo-Saxons were actually saying. Just use our safe search and search 'Eavesdrop'.

Or you may need to see related books. If so just go to the top of the screen, select History and from the page that opens choose Anglo-Saxons.

Remember, too, you can go to our safe search and type in any word about Anglo-Saxon times.