

Key Questions: What happened to Britain when the Romans left?

How was Anglo Saxon Britain ruled?

Vocabulary

Word	Definition
Dark Ages	A name sometimes used for the period after the Romans left Britain because fewer written records survived from that time.
Anglo Saxon	A group of Germanic peoples made up of Angles, Saxons and Jutes who migrated to and ruled parts of Britain from AD449 to 1066
Sutton Hoo	An important Anglo-Saxon burial site in Suffolk where archaeologists discovered a ship burial filled with treasures.
Settlement	A place where people choose to live and build homes.
Pagan	A person who believes in and worships many gods. Many Anglo-Saxons were pagans before they became Christians.
Kingdom	An area of land ruled by a king or queen.
Monarch	A king or queen who rules a country or kingdom.
Monastery	A place where monks (and sometimes nuns) live, work, pray and learn about their religion. Many important historical texts were written here.
Legacy	Something that a person leaves behind and is remembered for after they have died.
Manuscript	A book or document written by hand before the invention of printing.
Illustrated Writing	Writing that includes pictures, drawings or decorated letters to help explain the text or make it more beautiful.

Key Knowledge

Who's Who?

Alfred - King of Wessex, known as the Great, ruled 871-899

Asser - Man who wrote flattering life history of Alfred

Augustine - In the late 6th century, he was sent from Rome to England to bring Christianity to the Anglo-Saxons.

Bede - A monk who wrote a very important book on the early history of Britain.

Gildas - 6th century monk who wrote a history of Britain before and during the Saxon period

Guthrum - Danish leader and King of East Anglia who fought against Alfred, later christened Athelstan

Hengist and Horsa - Leaders who some people think arrived to take over Britain in AD449.

Raedwald - King of East Anglia died about AD625

Vortigern - King of the Britons at the time of the arrival of the Saxons under Hengist and Horsa in the 5th century

During this period England emerged as a recognisable nation and Christianity became established. King Alfred was the central Saxon figure, the only king to be called 'Great'. He was responsible for defeating the Vikings who threatened to control the country for many years through raids and then attempts to conquer.

