



Runnymede St. Edwards School – Knowledge Organiser

Topic: History

Anglo-Saxons

Year: 5

Term: Autumn

Vocabulary

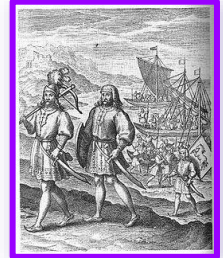
The Saxon Shore	The line of nine forts built to defend Britain from the Saxons.
Battleaxe	Most feared weapon.
Francisca	An iron axe-head used for throwing at the enemy.
Cyning	Germanic word for King - a successful chief.
Grave Goods	Items that a person is buried with.
Artefacts	Items that can give us information.
High born	Born into a wealthy, high social class family.
Amber	Hard resin material made from hardened tree sap.
Compensation	A sum of money to be paid in recognition of loss, suffering or injury.
Synod of Whitby	A meeting held to decide if Britain would follow Roman Christianity or Irish Christianity.
Offa's Dyke	Barrier built to separate Mercia and Wales.

Important People



King Arthur

Legends tell us that he led the Britons into battle with the Saxons.



Hengist & Horsa

They were invited to defend the Brits, instead they turned on the King and seized his kingdom.



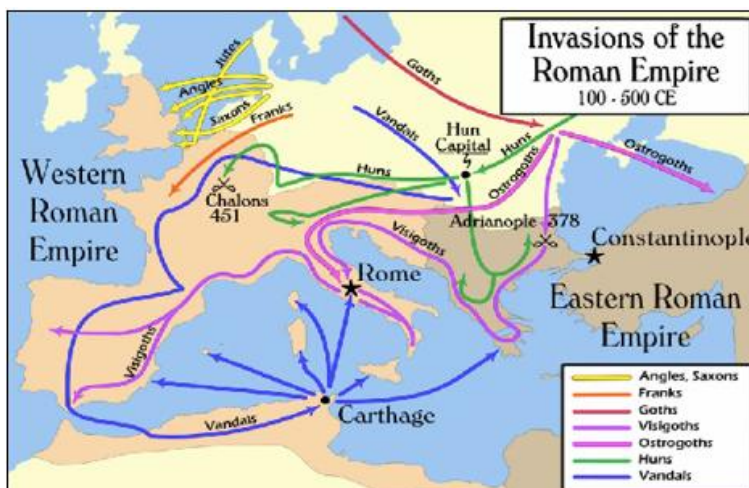
Basil Brown

Archaeologist who found a ship of Anglo-Saxon treasures.



Augustine

The monk sent to Britain to convert rulers to Christianity.



The Roman Empire faced constant threats from tribes beyond its borders. In Britain, Hadrian built his famous wall to keep out the Picts, but they later allied with the Scots and, eventually, the Saxons. With Rome unable to send help, the Romans tried to defend themselves using old forts, but by 410 they withdrew completely. Soon after, the Anglo-Saxons invaded, defeating the Britons in battle and beginning a new era, while old Roman forts crumbled, except for Pevensey Castle which remained in use.

Connected Kingdoms

The Anglo-Saxons divided Britain into seven main kingdoms: the Angles formed East Anglia, Mercia, and Northumbria; the Saxons created Wessex, Sussex, and Essex in the south; and the Jutes established Kent. Kent's king, Aethelberht, strengthened his rule by marrying the Frankish princess Bertha, gaining powerful connections and encouraging trade with France in goods like glass, ivory, and garnets. He also claimed descent from Hengist and introduced a law code to maintain peace. Archaeological finds, such as an imported brooch, show how far-reaching Anglo-Saxon trade was.