

Inquiry Question: How dark were the Dark Ages?

Key Vocabulary

Missionary	Angles	Christianity	Pagans	Picts	Romans
Saxons	Scots	Beowulf	Runes	Sutton Hoo	Wessex
East Anglia	Wattle and daub	Bayeux Tapestry	Vikings	St Augustine	Mercia
King Alfred	King Aethelbert	Invasion	Rise and Fall	Exploration	Hierarchy
Bias	Prejudice	Retreat	Continuity	Oppression	Retreat

In Year 4, you learnt:

Benin civilisation and Roman Britain

To compare two periods of history identifying similarities and differences between them

To use abstract terms (empire, civilisation, peasantry, parliament etc)

Place different periods of time on a timeline and remember key historical facts and some dates from a period studied.

In some ways....and....are alike. For instance....

However, they also differ in some ways. For example....

Given that...then....

My view is that....because....This is supported by the fact that....

It is my opinion that.... However, others might believe...

Key Facts

- 410 AD, the last of the Romans had returned home and left Britain vulnerable to invasions. The Picts and Scots were a constant threat to Britain without Romans
- The British king asked his two brothers (Hengest and Horsa) to come over from modern day Denmark to help keep the Picts and Scots out.
- Hengest and Horsa brought over more warriors and began to settle in Britain, pushing the British out. Other tribes also invaded Britain including the Angles and Saxons, known as the Anglo-Saxons. In about 600 AD, many of the British people were taken as slaves or were forced to escape.
- Many areas, towns and villages in Britain are named after the Anglo-Saxons who first settled here.
- The early Anglo-Saxons were Pagans who worshipped gods during festivals and make sacrifices of objects and animals. They were also very superstitious
- In 597 AD, a Roman monk was sent to tell the Anglo-Saxons about Christianity.
- The King of Kent was the first to be converted and was baptised along with 10,000 of his subjects
- Over the next 100 years, the rest of Britain converted to Christianity too.
- Many Irish people were also teaching the religion and missionaries were sent to Scotland and England to encourage even more people to follow the religion.
- One Irish monk, Columba, was successful in introducing Christianity to Scotland. He founded a very important abbey on the Island of Iona.
- Other influential monks included Aiden, who was sent from Iona to Northumbria to help King Oswald to spread the word about Christianity.
- Oswald gave Aiden the island of Lindisfarne where he built a monastery. This Holy Island was very influential, and spread Christianity across the North of England.

410	497	575	586	597	757	793	871	1016	1066
Romans left Britain leaving it unguarded	The kingdom of Wessex is formed	The kingdom of East Anglia was formed	The Kingdom of Mercia is formed	St Augustine introduces Christianity	Offa King of Mercia declares himself King of England	Vikings attack Lindisfarne	Alfred the Great rules	Canute the Great rules as first Viking	Battle of Hastings Normans defeat the Saxons