

Year 4 History: Invaders & Settlers – Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings

Prior Learning

- According to historians, The Stone Age period ran from 9500BC to 2000BC.
- The Bronze Age period came next, from 2000BC to 800BC. (Y3)
- The Iron Age period came last of the three and was from 800BC to 43AD.
- In 43AD, the Iron Age came to a close as the Romans successfully invaded Britain.
- 'BC' - Years before the birth of Christ. (Y3)
- 'AD' - Years since the birth of Christ, said to be in OAD. (Y3)



Sticky Knowledge

Romans: The Romans were around in Britain from 43AD – 410AD.

- The Romans, led by Julius Caesar, first attempted to **invade** Britain in 55BC. The month 'July' is named after him. 'August' is named after his great-nephew, Augustus.
- The Romans successfully **invaded** Britain in 43AD led by **Emperor** Claudius.
- The Romans were famous for their fighting tactics – most famously, the 'testudo' and the 'wedge' – and the brilliant organisation of their disciplined army.
- The Celts lived in Iron Age Britain and they tried to resist the Roman invasion. A lady called Boudicca, who was Queen of the Iceni **tribe**, led a **revolt** when the Romans killed her husband and took over her land. She was defeated and many Celts were killed.

In 410AD, they had to leave Britain to defend Rome against other tribes. By this time, they had built significant infrastructure, for example, sewerage systems, central heating and roads which we still use today.

Invade To enter and occupy land.
Settle To live in a new place where few people have lived before.
Tribe A group of people who share the same culture and values.

Emperor The ruler of an empire; an empire is a group of countries ruled by one ruler or state.
Revolt A rebellion to challenge perceived unfair treatment by rulers.

Kingdom An area ruled by a king.
Pagans A religion where many gods and goddesses are worshipped.

Monastery A building where people lived and worshiped, devoting their time and life to God.
Pillage To steal goods from a place, especially by force.



Sticky Knowledge

Anglo-Saxons: The Anglo-Saxons were around in Britain from 400AD – 800AD.

- When the Romans left, Britain was vulnerable to **invasion** from other countries.
- The Anglo-Saxons are separate groups of warriors who came from homelands such as Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. England was ruled in smaller **kingdoms**.
- The Anglo-Saxons left permanent reminders of their presence: many town names are Anglo-Saxon in origin – for example those ending in "-bury", "-ton" or "-ham". Our days of the week are named after Saxon Gods. 'England' comes from the Saxon word "Angle-land".
- Many Christian places of worship were built in Anglo-Saxon times when St Augustine came from Rome to Canterbury to promote Christianity. At first, the Anglo-Saxons were **pagans**, but monks on the Isle of Lindisfarne helped spread the word of Christianity.

Sticky Knowledge

Vikings: The Vikings were around in Britain from 800AD – 1066AD.

- The Vikings came from the modern Scandinavian countries of Denmark, Norway and Sweden. They raided **monasteries** and **pillaged** expensive goods to trade. They were looking for valuable goods like gold and jewels, furs, foods and other useful materials.
- The Vikings also wanted to claim land and tried to take over much of Britain.
- Not all the Vikings were bloodthirsty warriors. Some came to fight, but others came peacefully, to **settle**. They were farmers, and kept animals and grew crops. They were skilful at crafting, and made beautiful metalwork and wooden carvings. Vikings sailed the seas trading goods to buy silver, silks, spices, wine, and crafts to bring back to their homes.
- Anglo-Saxon laws were like some we have today, although punishments were different. These were brutal and would be carried out in public to act as deterrents. Viking laws were passed on by mouth. Punishments included fines, being semi-outlawed or fighting to death.
- Edward the Confessor was one of the last Saxon kings. He defended his kingdom against invasions but after his death in 1066, his successor Harold Godwinson was killed by William the Conqueror.





Griffe Field Primary School history topics timeline

