

TOPIC PACKS · Y3-Y5

Anglo-Saxons Themed Week

After Rome, before the Vikings

Week at a glance

Day 1 — Who were the Anglo-Saxons?



Day 2 — The Heptarchy

Day 3 — Sutton Hoo

Day 4 — Beowulf and riddles



Day 5 — Anglo-Saxon legacy

Roman vs Anglo-Saxon Britain — comparison

Aspect	Roman Britain	Anglo-Saxon Britain
When	43 - 410 CE	410 - 1066 CE
Origin	Italy	Germany / Denmark
Buildings	Stone, brick, mosaics, baths	Wood, thatched roofs
Towns	Cities (London, Bath, York)	Villages, no big cities
Religion	Pagan then Christian	Pagan then Christian (later)
Writing	Latin	Old English (with runes)
Famous remnants	Hadrian's Wall, baths, roads	Sutton Hoo, place names, language

Anglo-Saxon facts

Time period	410 CE (Romans leave) to 1066 CE (Norman conquest)
Origin	Angles, Saxons, Jutes from Germany and Denmark
Most famous king	Alfred the Great (849-899) — defeated Vikings, promoted learning, codified laws
Most famous discovery	Sutton Hoo (1939, Suffolk) — royal ship burial
Most famous poem	Beowulf — earliest long poem in English
Religion	Pagan (Norse-style gods: Woden, Thor, Tiw, Frige) until ~600 CE, then Christian



Days of the week Tuesday = Tiw's day; Wednesday = Woden's day; Thursday = Thor's day; Friday = Frige's day

Comprehension

1. When did the Anglo-Saxons arrive in Britain?
2. Where did they come from?
3. What were the seven Anglo-Saxon kingdoms called collectively?
4. Who was Alfred the Great and what did he do?
5. What was found at Sutton Hoo, and why did it matter?
6. How are the Anglo-Saxons connected to our days of the week?

Answers

From around 410 CE, after the Romans left.

Germany and Denmark — they were Angles, Saxons, and Jutes.

The Heptarchy (Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Essex, Sussex, Wessex, Kent).

King of Wessex who defeated the Vikings, promoted learning, and started unifying England.

A royal ship burial with weapons, gold, the famous helmet — proved the Anglo-Saxons were skilled, not primitive.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday are named after Anglo-Saxon gods.

