Anglo-Saxon Knowledge Organiser
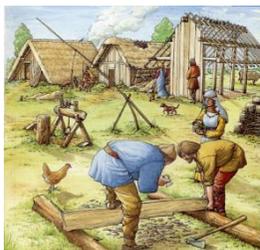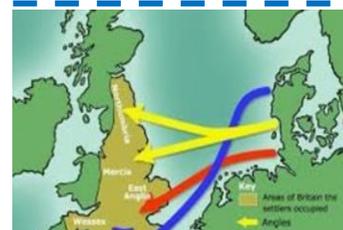
The Anglo-Saxons arrived in Britain in the 5th Century (410CE) and remained until the Battle of Hastings in 1066AD.

Anglo-Saxons arrive | Bede writes about the Anglo-Saxons | King Alfred's reign | Battle of Hastings

425-450 | 650 | 850 | 1066

Early Anglo-Saxon | Middle Anglo Saxon | Late Anglo Saxon

Who were the Anglo-Saxons?

Most of the invaders were Angles, Saxons or Jutes, who came from northern Germany. Some were Frisians from southern Scandinavia.

Reasons they came to Britain

- The Romans had left Britain to defend Rome, leaving it easy to attack and conquer
- Some were invited to come to help defend against attackers and they decided to stay
- The land was good for farming crops and animals
- There were valuable natural resources, like silver, gold, iron and wood.

Vocabulary

Occupation	A period of time where a group takes over a land, as the Anglo-Saxons did in Britain
Convert	To change from one thing to another
Thatched	A type of roofing made from straw
Barbarians	People not belonging to Christianity
Settlement	A place where people made their permanent home
Excavation	Removal of earth to find buried remains
Superstition	Belief in supernatural things
Reconstruction	Rebuild something after it has been destroyed
Devout	Being committed to a belief
Plundered	Steal goods using force in a time of confusion, like war

Anglo Saxon Gods/Goddesses

Woden– Chief God

Bealdor– God of Light

Thunor– God of Thunder

Frigg– Goddess of Love

Tiw– God of War

Anglo-Saxon England was divided into these kingdoms. Different tribes ruled them.

Sutton Hoo

In 1939, archaeologists discovered an Anglo-Saxon ship buried at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk. It contained lots of treasures and someone's remains, possibly a king.

Religion

Paganism

When the Anglo Saxons arrived in Britain they were Pagan. This meant they believed in lots of different Gods and Goddesses who were all in charge of different parts of life.

Christianity

In 597AD, the Pope sent Augustine to **convert** the Anglo Saxons to Christianity. He convinced King Ethelbert to become Christian and over the next 100 years, Britain gradually changed from Pagan to Christian.