

## Ashfield Valley Primary School – Year 4 Knowledge Organiser – Does the Anglo Saxon period deserve to be called a Dark Age?

### Facts about the Anglo Saxons

The Anglo Saxons were made up of different warrior tribes from Scandinavia – Denmark, Holland and North Germany. The main tribes were Angles, Saxons and Jutes.

The Anglo-Saxons first came to Britain to help the English King Vortigan, who was struggling to defend Britain after the Romans left. However, the Anglo-Saxons liked the good farm land in Britain and decided they wanted to rule the country themselves.

The Anglo Saxons were pagans, which meant they worshipped lots of different Gods and Goddesses.

Anglo-Saxon times are also referred to as 'The Dark Ages' or 'The Middle Ages'.

It was during the Anglo Saxon times that the first Christians came to Britain. St. Columba, St. Augustine and St. Aidan came to convert people to Christianity, but for a long time, the Anglo Saxons carried on worshipping their own pagan gods.

### Useful Websites/Reading

[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics)

Book – Beowulf – Michael Morpurgo

Book – Anglo-Saxon Boy by Tony Bradman

Book – King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table – Marcia Williams

### Vocabulary

Invader – a person or group that comes forcefully into a country or place.

Settler – a person who moves with a group of others to live in a new country or area

Scandinavia – Area of Northern Europe

Archaeologist – a person who studies history by finding objects and buildings underground

Excavation – digging on an archaeological site to find objects and buildings

Monastery – a building for Christian monks to live.

Old English – the language spoken by the Anglo Saxons. It is not the same as the English we speak today.

Sutton Hoo – this is a place in Suffolk where an Anglo Saxon ship containing many treasures was found buried. Archaeologists believe an Anglo Saxon king was buried here with his ship.

Grave goods- items buried in the graves of rich people and kings such as weapons, treasure and coins.

Saga – a story told orally and passed down through generations.

