



Y5 Thinking like an historian-

Who's who?

Alfred	King of Wessex, known as the Great, ruled 871-899
Asser	Man who wrote flattering life history of Alfred
Augustine	In the late 6th century, he was sent from Rome to England to bring Christianity to the Anglo-Saxons.
Bede	He wrote a very important book on the early history of Britain.
Burhs	Forts built in 9th century to defend against Viking raids
Gildas	6th century monk who wrote a history of Britain before and during Saxon period
Guthrum	Danish leader and King of East Anglia who fought against Alfred, later christened Athelstan
Hengist and Horsa	Leaders who some people think arrived to take over Britain in AD449.
Raedwald	King of East Anglia died about 625AD
Vortigern	King of the Britons at the time of the arrival of the Saxons under Hengist and Horsa in the 5th century

Key vocabulary

Cemetery	Burial place
Cenotaph	Empty grave to remember someone important buried elsewhere
Christianity	Religion based on life and teachings of Jesus Christ which came to Britain in Saxon times
Danelaw	Name given to northern and eastern part of Britain under Danish control from 9th to 11th century
Hoard	Store of money often hidden away to come back to later
Hypothesis	Theory that has to be tested
Monastery	Large religious building where monks lived and prayed
Pagan	Word used to describe people who didn't follow one of the main religions
Picts	Group of people who lived in part of Britain what we think of as Scotland
Sceptre	Looks like a stick richly decorated, carried by kings only
Settlement	Place people moved to live in
Sutton Hoo	Site of very important archaeological excavation in 1939.
Treaty	A formal, legally binding written agreement
Turning point	Time when things changed suddenly
Urn	Container for ashes
Viking	Name given to people from Scandinavia who raided traded and settled in Britain between the 9th and 11th centuries
Wergild	Fine to be paid to someone's family if a member was killed or injured

Learning Questions:

What did Britain look like before the Anglo-Saxons arrived?

Why did the Anglo-Saxons invade and how can we possibly know where they settled?

What does the mystery of the empty grave tell us about Saxon Britain?

How did people's lives change when Christianity came to Britain and how can we be sure?

How were the Saxons able to see off the Viking threat?

Just how great was King Alfred really?

How effective was Saxon justice?

