

# BRITAIN'S SETTLEMENT BY ANGLO-SAXONS AND SCOTS

**Settlement** As the groups of Anglo-Saxons moved into Britain they began to establish places to live and work. As pioneers they had to think carefully about where to site their villages.

## Key Developments:

- **Settlement:** the Anglo-Saxons settled after the Roman legions had left. They established village type farming communities, avoiding the Roman towns and cities. They used wattle and daub for their buildings rather than stone and brick.
- **Religion:** the early Anglo-Saxons were pagans, but after Augustine (AD597) and other monks came Christianity became widespread.
- **Language:** they used their own language which eventually resulted in the English spoken today.
- **Kingdoms:** The early settlers lived in small tribal groups. The seven major kingdoms were known as the heptarchy. This gave rise to administrative units, counties, that are the basis of today's local government.

## How do we know? Evidence:

- Literature survives from Anglo-Saxon times: monks like Gildas and the Venerable Bede wrote histories.
- The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle gives a year by year account of what happened during these times.
- The fragments of a poem called 'The Ruin', describes what happened to Roman cities as the Anglo-Saxons settled.
- Archaeological, landscape and place-name evidence (such as -ham, -ton, -ingham, -ley and -stead)
- The Anglo-Saxon village of West Stowe and the ship burial at Sutton Hoo in East Anglia provide evidence of how people lived and worked and how a hierarchical society structure developed.

## Vocabulary

Kingdom	groups of Anglo-Saxons allied themselves in larger groups living in a particular area
Scots	gaelic speaking people from north of Hadrian's Wall who threatened the northern kingdoms of Saxon Britain
Monk	a man who devoted his life to the worship of God in a monastery
Scribe	normally a monk who was skilled at writing and would copy out the religious works of the time
Pagan	people who do not believe in Christianity and worship their own gods and spirits
Wattle, daub and thatch	natural materials the Anglo-Saxons used for building (wattle are woven sticks and daub is mud plastered on them)
Sutton Hoo	the site in East Anglia of a ship's burial (625 AD) of a high ranked Saxon leader with his treasures and weapons including the famous war helmet
Bede	St Bede, known as the Venerable Bede, is regarded as the greatest of all the Anglo-Saxon scholars. He wrote around 40 books mainly dealing with theology and history and lived in the monastery at Jarrow. He died in 735AD



## National Curriculum:

- know and understand the history of these islands as a coherent, chronological narrative, from the earliest times to the present day: how people's lives have shaped this nation.
- understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance, and use them to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends, frame historically-valid questions and create their own structured accounts, including written narratives and analyses.