

Traders & Raiders

Imaginative learning project for year 3/4



Big and strong, powerful and brave, the Saxons wave their battle axes and brandish their swords as they begin to invade Britain's shores. Sail back to the Dark Ages, where battles were rife and fear reigned. Find out about the lives of the Saxons, including how they lived and where they came from. Meet the bloodthirsty Vikings from Scandinavia—never before had such terror swept the land. Make a Saxon sword or a Viking brooch and decorate it with intricate patterns. Choose to be a Saxon or Viking and trade your crafty goods, but let's keep it cool. We don't want a fight breaking out. Are you ready to shine a light on the dangerous and deadly Dark Ag-

History Focus. Key Facts:

- During the Roman rule of Britain, tribes from Denmark and Germany attempted to invade Britain.
- After the Romans left in AD410, three tribes called the Angles, Saxons and Jutes invaded England. They attacked and killed Britons or caused them to flee to Cornwall, Wales or Scotland.
- By AD600 the invaders had claimed England as their own country and divided it into seven kingdoms. Each kingdom was ruled by an Anglo-Saxon king.
- The Anglo-Saxons lived in small villages of huts and farmed the land.
- When the Anglo-Saxons arrived in Britain, they were pagans, which means that they believed in different gods.
- The Vikings came from Denmark, Sweden and Norway. The word 'Viking' comes from the old Norse language and means 'a pirate raid'. Eventually the Vikings took over many of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms
- By AD870 the only Anglo-Saxon kingdom left was Wessex which was ruled from AD871 by a wise and popular king called Alfred.
- Alfred made a deal with Guthrum, the Viking leader, to share Britain between them. The end of Anglo-Saxon rule came in 1066 with the invasion of the Normans.

Key Vocabulary

- ⇒ Conquer: to take control or possession of a place or people, by force
- ⇒ Jute: a member of a Germanic tribe who invaded and settled in Britain in the 5th century
- ⇒ Longhouse: a long, single-room building made from wood, stone, mud and turf where many Viking people lived together
- ⇒ Monastery: a building in which monks live and worship
- ⇒ Pagan: belonging to a religion that worships many gods
- ⇒ Saxon: a member of a Germanic tribe who invaded and settled in Britain in the 5th century
- ⇒ Viking: a member of a Scandinavian tribe who invaded and settled in Britain between the 8th and 11th centuries

Homework Projects

- ◆ Look at images of Anglo-Saxon coins. Can you design a coin? You could draw a picture or use modelling clay or other materials to make your coin look like metal—use your imagination!
- ◆ Look at animals in Viking art (search online for the Urnes or Jellinge style). Can you design and draw an imaginary beast to make a fantastic pattern?
- ◆ Do some research about Viking names and their meanings and make up some suitable Viking names for your friends and family. Remember to describe something about each person's appearance or characteristics
- ◆ Imagine you are a Viking poet. Create a poem to sing the praises of a friend or family member