Who were the Anglo - Saxons and what was important to them?



Key Vocabulary	
Angles	Tribes from modern day Denmark.
Christianity	A religion based on the teachings of Jesus.
missionary	A person from a religion sent to spread the faith.
monastery	A building where monks lived and worked.
monk	A male member of a religious group: living, praying and working together and following a set of rules.
nun	A female member of a religious group: living, praying and working together and following a set of rules.
Pagan	A religion that involves worshipping many gods and goddesses.
Picts	Tribes originally from Scotland who were 'foul' and had a 'lust for blood'.
Romans	The Romans invaded and settled in Britain for over 400 years, starting with their first successful raid in 54BC.
Saxons	German – Dutch tribes who settled in Britain from around 450 AD

By around 410 AD, the last of the Romans had returned home and left Britain vulnerable to invasions. Irish Scots invaded Scotland. The Picts and Scots were a constant threat to Britain especially without the Romans for support.



The Picts and Scots were powerful fighters so the British king asked his two brothers to come over from modern day Denmark to help keep the Picts and Scots out. Hengest and Horsa were happy to help and successfully avoided any invasions.



Hengest and Horsa brought over more warriors and began to settle in Britain, pushing the British out. Other tribes also invaded Britain including the **Angles** and **Saxons**, known as the Anglo-Saxons. In about 600AD, many of the British people were taken as slaves or were forced to escape.





Changing Religions

When the Romans were in Britain many people had become Christians, but when the Anglo-Saxons invaded and settled, Christians only carried on in places where the Anglo-Saxons did not live.

The Anglo-Saxons brought their pagan religion with them to Britain and Christianity ceased to be the main religion.

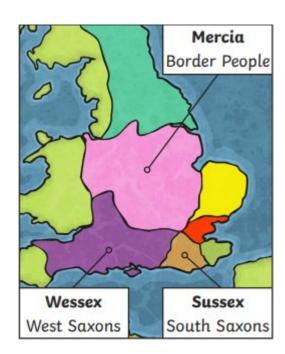
St Columba

A famous Irish abbot (head monk from a monastery) called Columba (521AD – 597AD) was particularly successful in introducing Christianity to Scotland. In 563AD, Columba left Ireland and founded a very important and influential abbey on the Island of Iona, just off the west coast of Scotland. Then, around 565AD, he converted the Northern Pictish King, King Bridei to Christianity.



St Aiden

A monk called Aiden (590AD – 651AD) was sent from Iona to Northumbria to help King Oswald spread the word about Christianity.
Oswald made Aiden a bishop and gave him the island of Lindisfarne where he founded a monastery.



Sutton Hoo

Sutton Hoo is **the site of the grave of an Anglo-Saxon king in Suffolk, England**. Discovered in 1939, it is
one of the largest and bestpreserved archaeological finds of the
Saxon period in Europe.







St Augustine

In 597AD, Pope Gregory the Great from Rome sent a Roman monk called Augustine (early 6th century - 604AD) to Britain to tell the Anglo-Saxons all about Christianity, and persuade them to become Christians. Augustine converted King Ethelbert of Kent to Christianity soon after his arrival. Ethelbert was baptised and became the first Anglo-Saxon Christian king. Augustine founded Canterbury Cathedral and became the first Archbishop of Canterbury.

