Year 5 History Knowledge Organiser Autumn 1
Anglo-Saxons

Knowledge

Cause and Consequence	What were the real reasons why the Saxons invaded? • It is hard to know for certain as to why due to lack of sources from this period of time • They invaded in the late 5th century • Reasons could include land for farming, better climate, Saxon land flooded, there was not enough food, thought now the Romans had gone that they could set up their own kingdoms and they were invited over to help fight against the Picts
Historical Evidence	Where did the early Anglo-Saxons live and how do we know? • East-Anglia was there first settlement • There were many cemeteries in East Anglia with urns found from Anglo-Saxon times
Historical Interpretation	What does the discovery at Sutton-Hoo tell us? • The discovery tells us that precious objects of kings during Saxon times were buried – in this case in a ship burial • The treasures were possibly belongings of an Anglo-Saxon king: Raedwald • The objects suggest wealth, status, dates, where he lived as well as faith
Change and Continuity	How did people's lives change when Christianity came to Britain and how can we be sure? • At the start of the Saxon time much of England was pagan – which means they didn't follow one of the main religions • Over time this changed and Christianity became a main religion
Historical Interpretation	How were the Saxons able to see off the Viking threat? • Vikings were not in control at the start of the period: the Saxons were. But gradually the raids started, however these were just to small parts of 'England' only. • The Saxon Kings, Alfred and Athelstan, stopped many Viking attacks. • King Ethelred had to pay them money to go away. This was called Danegeld.
Change and Continuity	Alfred and Guthrum: 878 – the year things changed • By 878 Alfred had ruled Wessex for nearly 7 years. For much of that time he had been fighting the Vikings. • After the Vikings had almost taken control of Wessex, Alfred encircled the Vikings, baptized them Christians and created the peace treaty known as Danelaw, where the Vikings ruled their already triumphed and north East England and the Saxons ruled Wessex (south).
Historical Interpretation	Just how great was King Alfred? • It could be suggested that he unified England with the signing to the treaty between the Vikings and Saxons • There were many other things written about as to why Alfred was so great, however, it is important to consider that this comes from Asser, a partial source which left out any negative points.
Historical Interpretation	Were Saxon times really dark? • There aren't many reasons to support whether the Saxon times can be considered as 'dark' (lack of significance in history) or not so dark (significant period of time in history). • Frequent battles with Vikings could make us question Saxon power, however many churches were built along with many Kings and Saxon people converting to Christianity possibly affecting years to come.

Key Vocabulary

Kingdoms	This is country, state, or territory ruled by a king or queen. England was split into kingdoms during this period. There were initially 7 kingdoms, then 3.
Settlements	Places people move to live in
Conquer	Overcome and take control of, much like when the Vikings took control of parts of England
Treaty	A formal, legally binding written agreement
Sutton Hoo	Site of very important archaeological excavation in 1939
Unified	To unite – make whole – much like when Alfred the Great unified England



