



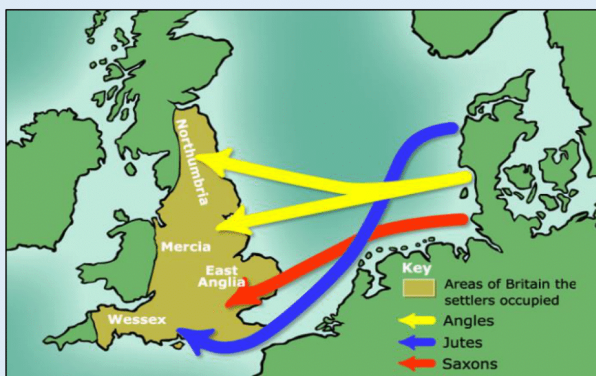
# THE ANGLO-SAXONS KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER









Diagram – Anglo-Saxon Routes

## Map of Anglo-Saxon Routes












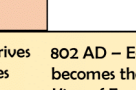
After the Romans left Britain, it became more open to invasion. The Anglo-Saxons were made up of people who rowed across the North Sea from an area that is now northern Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. These people were from three tribes: the Angles, the Saxons, and the Jutes. The Angles settled in northern England and East Anglia. The Saxons settled in large sections of southern England. The Jutes, meanwhile, adopted areas of Hampshire, Kent, and the Isle of Wight.



## Famous Anglo-Saxons

 <b>Alfred the Great</b> (849-899 AD) <p>Alfred the Great was an Anglo-Saxon king of Wessex, who was famous for his victories against the Vikings. Alfred, a great military mind, made strategical changes to ensure that Wessex stood strong, where other kingdoms fell to the Vikings. He eventually established Danelaw to keep Vikings in the east. He was also deeply interested in learning – he translated texts from Latin to English, and began to develop law across the land.</p>	 <b>Edward the Elder</b> (874/877-924 AD) <p>Edward the Elder was the son of Alfred the Great, and was King of Wessex from 899 until his death in 924. He was involved in several battles throughout the time of his father's reign, and this continued throughout his own reign. His succession to the throne was threatened by his cousin Ethelwald, who sided with the Viking. The two battled numerous times, until Ethelwald was eventually killed in battle at Holme in Essex.</p>
 <b>Saint Bede the Venerable</b> (673AD-735AD) <p>Saint Bede was a monk at the monastery of St. Peter and St Paul in the Kingdom of Northumbria. Bede travelled to several monasteries as a young boy, being lucky to avoid the plague that killed most at Jarrow monastery. He was an author and scholar, and his most famous work: The Ecclesiastical History of the English people, led to him being named 'The Father of English History. He was also a skilled linguist and translator.</p>	 <b>Egbert (Ecgherht)</b> (771/775AD-839AD) <p>Egbert (also spelt Ecgherht) was King of Wessex from 802AD until his death in 839AD. He was the first monarch to establish a stable and extensive rule over Anglo-Saxon England, and as a result is often referred to as the first King of England: after his victories in Mercia and Northumberland he was recognised by the title Bretwalda ('ruler of the British'). A year before he died, he defeated a combined force of the Danes and Cornish.</p>
 <b>Edward the Confessor</b> (777BC-859AD) <p>Edward the Confessor was the last but one of the Anglo-Saxon kings, known for his deep religious faith, which governed all aspects of his life. It is rumoured that Edward promised the throne to up to four different potential heirs before his death. This led to the eventual successor, Harold Godwinson, inheriting an unstable throne. Many believe this triggered the downfall of Anglo-Saxon rule.</p>	 <b>Harold Godwinson</b> (1022AD-1066AD) <p>Harold Godwinson, often called Harold II, was the last crowned Anglo-Saxon King of England. He had a short reign, lasting from 6<sup>th</sup> January 1066 until his famous death at hands of the Normans in the Battle of Hastings (on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 1066). Only weeks before, he had successfully repelled an attack from the Danish leader Harold Hardrada at Stamford Bridge.</p>

## Kingdoms, Battles and Life in the Anglo-Saxon Times

<b>East Anglia</b>		East Anglia was a small independent kingdom of the Angles, which was formed in the 6 <sup>th</sup> Century in the wake of the Anglo-Saxon settlement of Great Britain. It was incorporated into the Kingdom of England in 918.	<b>Where?</b> The East of England	<b>Key Fact:</b> The swampy 'Fens' separated much of East Anglia from the other kingdoms.
<b>Mercia</b>		Mercia was a large Anglo-Saxon kingdom that was centred around the River Trent. For 300 years (between 600 and 900AD) Mercia dominated England south of the River Humber – a period known as the Mercian Supremacy.	<b>Where?</b> English midlands	<b>Key Fact:</b> After invasions by the Vikings, much of Mercia was absorbed into Danelaw.
<b>Wessex</b>		Wessex was an Anglo-Saxon kingdom in the south of the country. A number of famous Wessex kings have become prominent figures in history, including Alfred the Great and Egbert – the first King of England.	<b>Where?</b> South and South West-England	<b>Key Fact:</b> Wessex ceased to exist after King Harold's defeat in 1066.
<b>Northumbria</b>		Northumbria was another medieval Anglian kingdom. It was originally made up of two separate kingdoms – Bernicia (from around Cumbria) and Deira (from around York) – until the two united around the year 654.	<b>Where?</b> North-eastern England and south-eastern Scotland	<b>Key Fact:</b> The name Northumbria means 'the people north of the Humber.'
<b>Danelaw</b>		King Alfred the Great defeated the Vikings in 878 AD, and had them sign a treaty, which governed that the Vikings stick to their own land in north and east England – this section of land became known as the Danelaw.	<b>Where?</b> North and East England	<b>Key Fact:</b> The Vikings did not give up on ruling all of England, and eventually did!
<b>Battle of Edington</b>		At the Battle of Edington, an Anglo-Saxon army led by King Alfred the Great defeated the Great Heathen Army, a collection of Viking warriors led by Guthrum.	<b>When?</b> May 878 AD	<b>Key Fact:</b> Afterwards, Guthrum was baptized and made to accept Alfred as his leader.
<b>Battle of Stamford Bridge</b>		This battle took place in the village of Stamford Bridge, in the east riding of Yorkshire. King Harold of England defeated a Viking army led by Harald Hardrada.	<b>When?</b> 25/09/1066 – widely considered the end of the Viking era	<b>Key Fact:</b> Harold's army was defeated only 3 weeks later at the Battle of Hastings.
<b>Battle of Hastings</b>		3 weeks after the Battle of Stamford Bridge, King Harold was killed by the Normans at the Battle of Hastings. William of Normandy, who became the first Norman King.	<b>Who?</b> William became known as 'William the Conqueror.'	<b>Key Fact:</b> The common belief that Harold was killed by an arrow in the eye is unproven.
<b>Houses</b>		The British forests had all that the Anglo-Saxons needed to build their houses. They were small wooden huts with straw roofs, and one room in which the whole family lived.	<b>How?</b> A hole was placed in the roof to allow smoke from cooking fire to escape.	<b>Key Fact:</b> The biggest house in each village was reserved for the chief of the village.
<b>Religion</b>		Most Anglo-Saxons were pagans, believing in lots of different gods, until the Pope in Rome sent over Augustine as a missionary, in 597AD. Slowly, the country became Christian.	<b>Who?</b> Augustine became the first archbishop of Canterbury	<b>Key Fact:</b> Churches built at this time were normally made of wood.
<b>Food</b>		Anglo-Saxons enjoyed huge feasts. They ate bread, meats such as pork and lamb, vegetables such as carrots and parsnips, and drank milk and beer!	<b>How?</b> Anglo-Saxons grew wheat to make bread and porridge.	<b>Key Fact:</b> Extra animal fat was used to fuel oil lamps.
<b>Clothes</b>		Men wore long-sleeved tunics made of wool or linen, and these were often decorated with patterns. Women would wear an underdress of linen, and an outer pinafore-like dress called a 'peplos.' Shoes were made of leather.	<b>How?</b> Anglo-Saxons made their clothes from natural resources.	<b>Key Fact:</b> Belts were used to hang tools and small weapons from.

## Anglo-Saxon Timeline

410 AD – The Romans leave Britain unguarded.	455 AD – The Kingdom of Kent is established (primarily by the Jutes).	477-495 AD – The Kingdoms of Wessex and Essex are formed.	547-586 AD – The Kingdoms of Northumberland, East Anglia, and Mercia are formed.	597 AD – St. Augustine arrives in Britain and introduces people to Christianity.	802 AD – Egbert becomes the first King of England.	871-899 AD – Alfred the Great rules.	1016-1035 AD – Canute the Great – the first Viking king – rules	1066 AD – At the Battle of Hastings, the Normans defeat the Anglo-Saxons.
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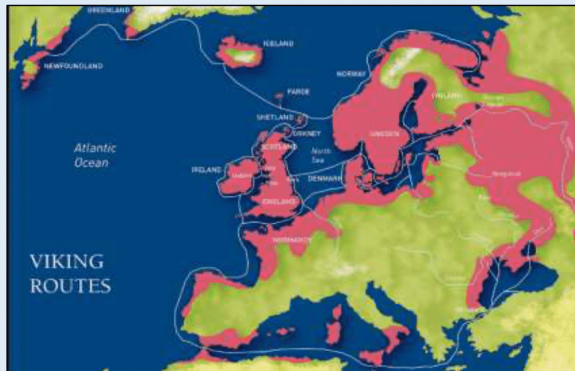
# THE VIKINGS KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Diagram – Map of Viking Routes

## Map of Viking Routes

The Vikings came from the Scandinavian countries of Norway, Sweden and Denmark. The time between 787AD and 1050AD is known as the time of the Vikings. Initially, they settled in northern Scotland and eastern England, also establishing the city of Dublin in Ireland. Around 1000AD, some Vikings settled in North America, but did not stay long. They also travelled to southern Spain and Russia, and traded as far as Turkey.



## Famous Viking Leaders and Explorers



### Ragnar Lodbrok (740/780-840 AD)

Ragnar Lodbrok is a legendary Danish and Swedish Viking leader, who is largely known from Viking Age Old Norse poetry and literature (there is debate as to whether he actually existed under this name). According to these accounts, he spent the 9<sup>th</sup> Century engaged in many conflicts with the British and French leaders. He was reportedly executed by Ella of Northumbria, who cast him into a pit full of snakes.



### Erik the Red (950AD-1003AD)

Erik Thorvaldsson, known as Erik the Red, was a Norse explorer, famed for having founded the first settlement in Greenland. Before this, he was exiled from Iceland (around 980), reportedly for a number of violent conflicts and murders. Erik's nickname was reportedly coined as a result of his dark, flowing red hair and beard, in conjunction with his volatile temperament. Erik eventually returned to Iceland, in 986, forming a colony.



### Bjorn Ironside (777BC-859AD)

Bjorn Ironside was another son of the legendary Ragnar Lodbrok, who is believed to have been the King of Sweden at some point in the 9<sup>th</sup> Century. He led numerous successful raids across Europe, mostly famously in France and across the Mediterranean Sea. He is known for founding the house of Munso, who ruled for many generations in Sweden.

### Ivar the Boneless (794-873 AD)

Ivar the Boneless was a notoriously ferocious Viking leader and commander who invaded what is now England. He was a son of the legendary Viking Ragnar Lodbrok. It is said that Ivar and his brothers led the 'Great Heathen Army' to attack Britain to avenge the death of their father. His 'boneless' nickname could have been for a number of reasons: impotence, a physical deformity, his lack of empathy, or his large stature.



### Leif Erikson (970AD-1020AD)

Leif Erikson was a Norse explorer from Iceland. The son of Erik the Red, Leif was the first European known to have set foot on continental America – hundreds of years before Christopher Columbus. He reportedly established a settlement at 'Vinland', what is now the northern tip of Newfoundland in Canada. He was reportedly a wise, strong, and considerate man, in contrast to his father's more brash, brazen personality.



### Eric Bloodaxe (885AD-954AD)

Eric Haraldsson, nicknamed Eric Bloodaxe, was a 10<sup>th</sup> Century Norwegian ruler. He is thought to have had short reigns as both the King of Norway and twice as the King of Northumberland (c.947-948 and 952-954). He is said to have taken part in bloody raids across Europe from the age of just 12, quickly learning that violence was the best way to establish himself as distinguished Viking.



## Viking Timeline

787-789 AD – The Vikings begin their attacks on Britain.

840 AD – Viking settlers establish the city of Dublin in Ireland.

866 AD – Danish Vikings establish a kingdom in York, England.

878-886 AD – King Alfred divides England under the Danelaw Act, granting Vikings north & east England.

900-911 AD – The Vikings raid the Mediterranean, and found Normandy in France.

981 AD – Eric the Red discovers Greenland.

1000 AD – Leif Erikson explores the coast of North America

1013 AD – The Danes conquer England. From 1028, Knut rules.

1066 AD – The Vikings, led by Harold Godwinson, are defeated at Stamford Bridge.

## Life in the Viking Times

<b>Scandinavia</b>		The Vikings descended from all over Scandinavia (now Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Denmark). The terrain of Scandinavia was not great for farming, so Vikings left their homeland in search of more fertile lands.	<b>Where?</b> Northern Europe	<b>Key Fact:</b> The Vikings were also known by the name 'Norsemen.'
<b>Viking Longships</b>		The Vikings had advanced sailing and navigational skills for the time. They were aided by their longboats, which were long, narrow wooden vessels. These could be sailed in both deep and shallow water.	<b>When?</b> The longship first appeared in the 9 <sup>th</sup> Century	<b>Key Fact:</b> The methods used in building longships are still used today!
<b>Norse Runes</b>		The Vikings spoke in a language called Norse, and had their own alphabet system (futhark) made up of symbols called Runes. The original futhark had 24 letters, although this was later expanded. Runes were regarded as sacred.	<b>How?</b> Vikings would scribe on wood, bone and stone.	<b>Key Fact:</b> The word 'futhark' comes from the first 6 letters of the Viking alphabet.
<b>Danelaw</b>		King Alfred the Great defeated the Vikings in 878 AD, and had them sign a treaty, which governed that the Vikings stick to their own land in north and east England – this section of land became known as the Danelaw.	<b>Where?</b> North and East England	<b>Key Fact:</b> The Vikings did not give up on ruling all of England, and eventually did!
<b>Jorvik</b>		The Vikings invaded York and renamed it Jorvik. Here, a settlement was formed, which reigned prosperously for over 100 years, until Eric Bloodaxe was expelled in 954 AD.	<b>Where?</b> York, UK	<b>Key Fact:</b> Many streets in York end in 'gate', the Viking word for 'street.'
<b>Valhalla and Odin</b>		Vikings believed that when they died in battle, half of them would go to an enormous, majestic hall called Valhalla. This is where the king of the gods lived, named Odin.	<b>What?</b> Vikings believed the other half	<b>Key Fact:</b> The other half were believed to descend to goddess Freyja's field: Folkvangr.
<b>Battle of Stamford Bridge</b>		This battle took place in the village of Stamford Bridge, in the east riding of Yorkshire. King Harold of England defeated a Viking army led by Harald Hardrada	<b>When?</b> 25/09/1066 – widely considered the end of the Viking era	<b>Key Fact:</b> Harold's army was defeated only 3 weeks later at the Battle of Hastings.
<b>Viking Homes</b>		Vikings lived in long rectangular houses made with upright timbers. They used woven sticks, covered with mud, to keep out the rain. They were often one room, with a central fire.	<b>How?</b> Smoke escaped through a hole in the roof.	<b>Key Fact:</b> Animals and people often lived at different ends of the same building.
<b>Weapons</b>		According to custom, Vikings were permitted (and encouraged) to carry a weapon at all times. Weapons included bow and arrows, spears, knives, swords, axes and slings.	<b>How?</b> Bow and arrows were made from yew, ash, or elm.	<b>Key Fact:</b> Grand, well-finished weapons were seen as a sign of wealth and prestige amongst Vikings.
<b>Life for Children</b>		In old Norse society, formal schooling for children did not exist. Boys worked on farms from a young age, and girls contributed to housework. Many died young.	<b>What?</b> Viking children played with wooden toys.	<b>Key Fact:</b> Some Vikings who could not support their babies left them out to die.
<b>Food</b>		Vikings ate whatever food they could grow, hunt, or make, for example leeks, nuts, berries, bread, porridge, spinach, deer, boar, trout, chicken, eggs, sheep and pigs.	<b>How?</b> Vikings grew grains to make a number of foods.	<b>Key Fact:</b> Vikings also ate honey from bees.
<b>Clothes</b>		The Vikings were skillful weavers, and women and children often made clothes for their families. They could also use natural dyes from plants to give colour. Men wore tunics and trousers, whilst women wore long dresses.	<b>How?</b> Most clothes were made from wool and animal skins	<b>Key Fact:</b> Vikings fastened their clothes with belts and brooches.

## Laws and Justice

Many laws we have in Britain today are not that different from the laws of Anglo-Saxon Britain. However, the punishments were considerably different.

There were no prisons to send criminals to, so punishments were designed to be a huge deterrent to those thinking of breaking the law and they were often pretty brutal!

The different Anglo-Saxon kings and kingdoms had their own laws and punishments. Such punishments included:

- Stoning
- Hanging
- Drowning
- Cutting body parts off



## Influential People of the Anglo-Saxon Era



**King Alfred The Great** is credited with being the first Anglo-Saxon king to defeat the Vikings

**Athelstan** is regarded as the first king of all Britain and he is remembered as a great leader.

Edward the Confessor died in AD 1066 and **Harold Godwinson** became king. He was later defeated by Danish king William the conqueror, marking the end of Anglo-Saxon rule.



In AD 1042, **Edward the Confessor**, became king of England after he was invited to return to Britain from exile in Normandy. He ruled until his death in AD 1066.

He was known as 'The Confessor' because he led a very religious life and he was a kind and thoughtful king. Edward built Westminster Abbey.

Edward married Edith Godwinson in AD 1045. Edward and Edith did not have any children. He was succeeded by Harold Godwinson, although many contested his rule.



## Glossary

**Anglo-Saxons** - After the Romans left Britain in 410AD, Angles and Saxons came across the North Sea to settle in Britain.

**Angles** - Tribes from modern day Denmark.

**Saxons** - Tribes from modern day Germany and the Netherlands.

**Vikings** - Also from Scandinavia, the Vikings later invaded Anglo-Saxon Britain in 787AD. They carried out many raids and battles.

**Invasion** - when a foreign army enters a country by force.

**Raid** - Surprise attacks, often carried out from longboats. Raiders would often pillage the settlement using violence.

**Christianity** - A religion based on the teachings of Jesus. Practiced by the Romans, it was later adopted by many Anglo-Saxons.

**Pagan** - A religion worshipin many gods and goddesses. The original Anglo-Saxon and Viking settlers often worshiped many gods based around nature, such as Odin, Frigg and Thor.

**The pound** - The currency used by Anglo-Saxons, it was made up of 240 silver pennies which weighted 1 pound of silver.

**Wergild** - A payment system used in Anglo-Saxon times to settle disputes. Wergild would be paid if somebody was killed and the amount depended on how important the victim was.