



KS2 History Lesson Plan: Britain's Settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots

Lesson title	Britain's Settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots
Subject	History
Year group	KS2 (Year 4/5)
Duration	60 minutes
Topic	Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots
Focus	Invasions, settlements, kingdoms, culture and Christian conversion

Learning objectives

By the end of the lesson, pupils will:

- Place the end of Roman Britain and the arrival of Anglo-Saxons and Scots on a timeline.
 - Describe who the Anglo-Saxons and Scots were and why they came to Britain.
 - Identify key features of Anglo-Saxon life (settlements, place names, village life, art and culture).
 - Explain, in simple terms, how Christianity spread to Britain (Canterbury, Iona, Lindisfarne).
 - Use appropriate historical terms (e.g. invasion, settlement, kingdom, pagan, Christian, monastery).
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Key vocabulary

Roman Empire, withdrawal, invasion, settlement, kingdom, Anglo-Saxon, Scot, pagan, Christian, monastery, Canterbury, Iona, Lindisfarne, village, place name, culture, art

Resources

- ☐ Timeline showing: end of Roman rule (c. AD 410), Anglo-Saxon and Scots arrivals, key Christian sites
 - ☐ Map of Britain showing areas settled by Anglo-Saxons and Scots
 - ☐ Picture/Fact cards on: Roman withdrawal, Anglo-Saxon villages, Scots from Ireland, Anglo-Saxon art, monasteries at Canterbury, Iona, Lindisfarne
 - ☐ Examples of Anglo-Saxon place names (e.g. -ham, -ton, -bury)
 - ☐ Large paper for group posters, pens, pencils, glue
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Starter (10 minutes)

- Show a map of Roman Britain and then a map of Britain after the Romans left.
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Ask: “What might happen when a powerful empire leaves?”

- Introduce the idea of new groups arriving: Anglo-Saxons and Scots.

Main teaching input (10–15 minutes)

- Briefly explain:
 - Roman withdrawal from Britain around AD 410 and the fall of the western Roman Empire.
 - Scots invasions from Ireland to north Britain (now Scotland).
 - Anglo-Saxon invasions and settlements in different parts of Britain.
 - Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and village life (houses, farming, place names).
 - Anglo-Saxon art and culture (jewellery, manuscripts, carvings).
 - Christian conversion and the importance of Canterbury, Iona and Lindisfarne.
 - Place key events on a class timeline and highlight key terms.
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Pupil activities (25–30 minutes)

Activity 1: Map and Timeline Work

- In pairs, pupils label a simple map of Britain with areas settled by Anglo-Saxons and Scots.
- They add key events to a mini timeline (Roman withdrawal, Anglo-Saxon arrival, Scots in the north, Christian sites).

Activity 2: Anglo-Saxon Village and Culture

- In small groups, pupils use picture/fact cards to create a poster of an Anglo-Saxon village.
- They include homes, farming, place names, and at least one example of art or culture.

Challenge / differentiation

- Higher-attaining pupils write a short paragraph explaining how life in Britain changed after the Romans left, using historical terms.
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Plenary (5–10 minutes)

- Groups share one key change they found (e.g. new place names, new kingdoms, new religion).
- Revisit the timeline and ask: “What connections and contrasts can we see between Roman Britain and Anglo-Saxon/Scots Britain?”
- Briefly discuss how we know about this period (archaeology, place names, written sources, monasteries).

Homework

- ☐ Homework task: pupils design a “Welcome to our Anglo-Saxon village” sign, including a place name ending (e.g. -ham, -ton) and one picture showing village life.
- ☐ On the back, they write a few sentences as if they live there, describing one aspect of daily life.

Assessment notes

- Look for pupils placing key events in roughly correct chronological order.
- Check use of historical terms and ability to describe Anglo-Saxon and Scots settlement.
- Note who can explain at least one way Britain changed after the Romans left.