

Prehistoric and Ancient Britain Knowledge Organiser

Chronology

4000 BC/BCE	The Neolithic period began
3000 BC/BCE	Grime's Graves flint mine established
2300 BC/BCE	The Bronze Age began
2000 BC/BCE	Stonehenge was completed
750 BC/BCE	The Iron Age began
500 BC/BCE	Celts arrived in Britain
43 AD/CE	The Romans invaded Britain
60 AD/CE	Boudicca's rebellion against the Romans
410 AD/CE	The last Roman leaders left Britain as Anglo-Saxons began to invade
793 AD/CE	First Viking invasion of Britain
865 AD/CE	The Danelaw was established
1016 AD/CE	King Cnut became the first Viking to rule a united England
1042 AD/CE	King Edward the Confessor made England Anglo-Saxon again

Core Knowledge

- Flint was a useful stone for building and making tools, because it's really hard.
- The Beaker people got their name from the decorated pots they made, but they also made objects out of metals like bronze.
- Iron replaced bronze because it is stronger
- The Romans took 3 attempts to conquer Britain! The part they ruled was called Britannia.
- The Romans attacked the Iceni because their leader, Boudicca, was a woman, and the Romans didn't let women rule or own property.
- Boudicca got revenge by destroying Colchester, London and St Albans, before being defeated by Suetonius Paulinus' Roman army.
- Roman towns were very advanced, with central heating, sewers, clean water and flushing toilets!
- The Romans left in 410 AD because of attacks on the Empire, including Anglo-Saxon invasions of Britain.
- The Viking King Cnut was also king of Denmark and Norway.
- Edward the Confessor became King of England in 1042. He was a Saxon but was the step-son of King Cnut.

Key People

Beaker People
Celts
Boudicca
Suetonius Paulinus
Anglo Saxons
Vikings
King Cnut (Canute)
King Edward the Confessor



Useful Websites and Books

- BBC Bitesize Romans: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zfqsgk7/revision/1>
- BBC Anglo-Saxons information: http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/anglo_saxons/who_were_the_anglo-saxons/
- Usborne Beginners History 9-14 (set of 10 books)
- Horrible Histories: Savage Stone Age, Cut-Throat Celts, Rotten Romans, Smashing Saxons, Vicious Vikings

Key Words

BC/BCE	Before Christ/Before Common Era
AD/CE	Anno Domini/Common Era
Neolithic	The late Stone Age, when farming began
Empire	A large group of states or countries ruled over by a single leader.
Imperialism	When a government has a policy to build up an empire
Militarism	The belief that a country should have a strong military, and use this aggressively to its advantage.
Rebellion	Disobeying rules or fighting against authority
Danelaw	The area of England controlled by the Vikings

1066 and the Norman conquest Knowledge organiser

Chronology

January 1066	Edward the Confessor dies with no heir
September 1066	Harald Hardrada and Vikings invade England in the North
20th September	Battle of Fulford Gate – Vikings defeat Morcar and an English army
25 th September	Battle of Stamford Bridge – Harold defeats Harald Hardrada– English victory.
14 th October	Battle of Hastings – Norman victory. Harold Godwinson is killed.
December 1066	William the Conqueror is crowned King of England
1069	Harrying of the North
1085	Creation of the Domesday book

Key people

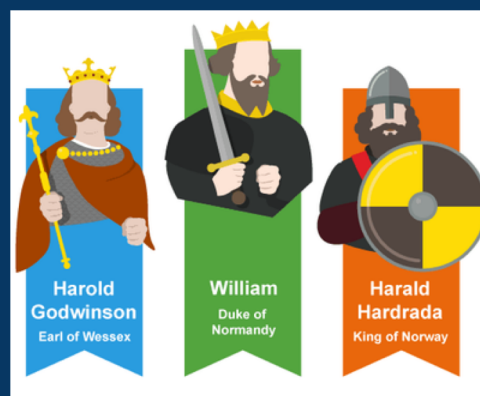
Harold Godwinson
Harald Hardrada
William I
Edward the Confessor
Edgar Aethling

Common misconceptions

The surviving accounts of the Battle of Hastings are all suspect. They were either written by Anglo-Saxon writers who hated the Normans as foreign overlords, or they were authored by Normans who had an interest in misrepresenting events.

Beginning at 9am on 14 October 1066 the battle lasted less than a day and is believed to have been over by nightfall. But although this may seem short by today's standards, at the time such battles were often over within an hour.

There is much debate over how many men were put forward by each of the opposing sides, though it is currently thought that both armies had between 5,000 and 7,000 men.



Useful Websites and Books

Revision websites:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zsjnb9q/revision/1>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks3-ks4-1066/zrnd7nb>

DVD: '1066 A year to conquer England'

Fiction: *Anglo-Saxon Boy* by Tony Bradman – a story of 1066 woven around Magnus, young son of the Earl of Wessex.

Key Words

Witan	The advisors of the Anglo-Saxon king
Earls	Rich and powerful land owners.
Earldom	The area of land controlled by Earls.
Thegn	Smaller landowners.
Ceorl	Ordinary people who owned just enough land to grow food on.
Thrall	Anglo-Saxon slave
heir	A person legally entitled to the property or rank of another on that person's death.
The Feudal system	A system of land control.
Oath	A sacred promise.
Housecarl	Harold Godwinson's elite soldiers
Fyrd	Harold Godwinson's inexperienced soldiers
Senlac hill	The area of land occupied by Harold's army at the Battle of Hastings
Bayeux Tapestry	70 metre long cloth created in the 1070s depicting events before, during and after the battle of Hastings.
Domesday book	A survey ordered by King William
Motte and Bailey castle	a fortification with a wooden or stone keep situated on a raised area of ground called a motte, accompanied by a walled courtyard, or bailey, surrounded by a protective ditch and palisade.