Thursday 13th May 2021

LO: To explain how the Anglo-Saxons change Britain.

Starter: Label the burial picture



Let's look at the legacy of the Anglo-Saxon.

Glossary:

conquered - take over another country

courageous - brave

exaggerated - over the top

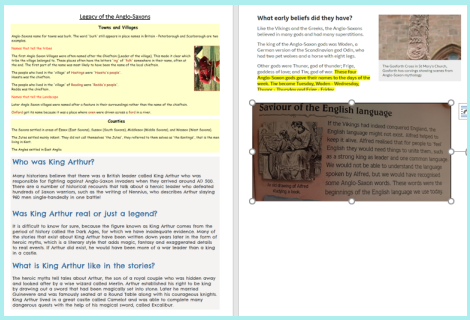
ford - shallow place in a river that you can walk across

heroic - brave and protects others

myth - a tradition story involving supernatural things.

surrounding - all around you

unite - come together, work together.


Legacy of the Anglo-Saxons

Towns and Villages

Who was King Arthur?

Many historians believe that there was a British leader called King Arthur who was responsible for fighting against Anglo-Saxon invaders when they arrived around AD 500. There are a number of historical recounts that talk about a heroic leader who defeated hundreds of Saxon warriors, such as the writing of Nennius, who describes Arthur slaying 960 men single-handedly in one battle!

Was King Arthur real or just a legend?

It is difficult to know for sure, because the figure known as King Arthur comes from the period of history called the Dark Ages, for which we have inadequate evidence. Many of the stories that exist about King Arthur have been written down years later in the form of heroic myths, which is a literary style that adds magic, fantasy and exaggerated details to real events. If Arthur did exist, he would have been more of a war leader than a king in a castle.

What is King Arthur like in the stories?

The heroic myth tell tales about Arthur, the son of a royal couple who was hidden away by Merlin the wizard. Merlin then helped Arthur to become King of England by drawing out a sword that had been magically set into stone. Later he married Guinevere and was famously seated at a Round Table along with his courageous knights. King Arthur lived in a great castle called Camelot and was able to complete many dangerous quests with the help of his magical sword, called Excalibur.

What early beliefs did they have?

Like the Vikings and the Greeks, the Anglo-Saxons believed in many gods and had many superstitions.

The king of the Anglo-Saxon gods was Woden, a German version of the Scandinavian god Odin, who had two pet wolves and a horse with eight legs.

Other gods were Thunor, god of thunder (Thor), Tiw, god of war, Thinsa Hoe

Anglo-Saxon gods gave their names to five days of the week. The two sons: Tuesday, Woden – Wednesday, Thunor – Thursday and Frige – Friday

The Ruthwell Cross in St Mary's Church, Dumfriesshire, depicts Anglo-Saxon scenes from Anglo-Saxon mythology

Saviour of the English language

If the Vikings had indeed conquered England, the English language might not exist. Alfred hoped to keep it alive. Alfred realised that for people to feel English they would need things to unite them, such as a strong king as leader and one common language. We would not be able to understand the language spoken by Alfred, but we would have recognised some Anglo-Saxon words. These words were the beginnings of the English language we use today.

1st Read:

I DO: What is a chieftain?

WE DO: Write down places that are named after Anglo-saxons.

YOU DO: Describe the legend of King Arthur.

YOU DO: What did the Anglo-Saxon God's gave their names to?

Final outcome:
Finish the spider diagram of all the things Anglo Saxons brought to Britain and stick into books.