

Year 7) Term 1A: History Skills, the Anglo-Saxons and the Staffordshire Hoard

Learning objective: To understand chronology, sources and interpretations through the history of the Anglo-Saxons and Staffordshire Hoard.



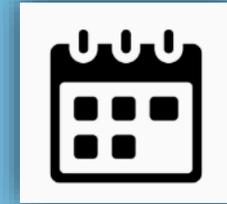
What do I need to know about the Anglo-Saxons in the Dark Ages?

- What the Dark Ages were and why the period is 'dark' for historians.
- How historians find out about the past.
- What life was like in the 'Dark Ages.'



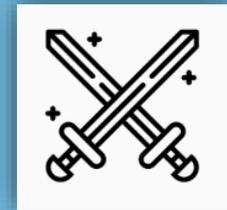
What history skills do I need to know?

- Chronology, putting events in order and understanding BC / AD.
- What primary and secondary sources are and why they are used.
- What a historian is and what their interpretations are.



What do I need to know about the Staffordshire Hoard?

- The myths and fables of life in Anglo-Saxon times, like Beowulf.
- What life was actually like for Anglo-Saxons – like living conditions.
- How and why kingdoms, such as Mercia, fought each other.
- Why the Staffordshire Hoard might have been buried.



KEYWORDS:

Chronology = events put in the order that they happened.
Sources = evidence from the past.

Interpretations = a persons opinion on a historical event.

Key events/people:

The Dark Ages
Primary Sources
Secondary Sources
The Staffordshire Hoard
The Anglo-Saxons
The Kingdom of Mercia

3000 BC – 1200 BC



The Bronze Age in Britain

753 BC – 500 AD



The Roman Empire spans across Europe

500 AD – 600 AD



Seven Saxon Kingdoms emerge in Britain

Roughly 600-699 AD



The Staffordshire Hoard is buried by the Anglo Saxons



What first-order concepts do I need to learn below?

Hint: remember! A first-order concept is a word historians use to describe facts related to events.

➤ Facts on the Anglo Saxons in the Dark Ages:

- The 'Dark Ages' is a name given to the period 500 AD – 1000 AD.
- It is called this because history 'goes dark' – meaning we as historians do not know much about the period because not a lot of information is known about it.
- This is because historians use sources to find out about the past.
- The Dark Ages were a time of chaos and war – so not a lot of things survived from 1500 years ago!

➤ Facts on the Anglo-Saxons and the Staffordshire Hoard:

- The Anglo-Saxons lived in this period chronologically - 1400 years ago.
- Life for Anglo-Saxons was hard. Most towns were small, and built around farms. In each town there was a Jarl, who would be in charge. Houses were like mud huts. Poor people were called peasants.
- There were many kingdoms in Anglo-Saxon England – but Burntwood was in the Kingdom of Mercia.
- The Anglo-Saxon Hoard was a set of treasures buried in Hammerwich, which was in Mercia.
- Nobody knows why the set of treasures was buried, but it was laid to rest on the old Roman road – now called the A5! The treasures may have been dumped there after being stolen by the Mercian's.

What second-order concepts do I need to learn below?

Hint: remember! A 'second-order concept' is a phrase historians use to describe the history skills that are used in history – like putting events in chronological order, or analysing sources!

- Chronology is putting events and years in order. E.g. 2020 came after 1945 chronologically.
- BC is on the negative side of the timeline. AD is on the right-hand, positive side.
- Sources are things historians use to find out about the past. They could be primary or secondary sources.
- Primary sources are things from the time period a historian is studying, like a sword or shield.
- Secondary sources are things from after the time period, such as a historians book or the internet.

Look to the past:

Below is a primary source:
a photograph of the
Staffordshire Hoard – which
was a set of artefacts dug out
of the ground in
Hammerwich, Staffordshire. It
is now held and curated in
Lichfield Museum.



Year 7) Term 1B: 1066 and the Battle of Hastings

Learning objective: To understand chronology, sources and factors through the history of 1066 and the lead-up to the Battle of Hastings.



What do I need to know about the life of different people in 1066?

- What life like in Anglo-Saxon Britain.
- What life was like for the Vikings of Norway.
- What the differences between two societies was like.



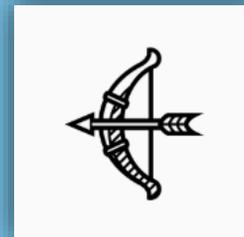
What do I need to know about the contenders to the throne?

- Who Edward the Confessor was, and why he was a poor king.
- Who Harold Godwinson and Edgar the Atheling were.
- Who Harald Hardrada and William the Conqueror were.



What do I need to know about the Battle of Hastings in 1066?

- What led up to the event, like the Battle of Stamford Bridge.
- Who was in the best position at the start of the Battle and why.
- Who had the best soldiers and tactics.
- How and why William of Normandy won.



KEYWORDS:

Chronology = events put in the order that they happened.
Sources = evidence from the past.

Interpretations = a persons opinion on a historical event.

Key events/people:

The Anglo-Saxons
The Vikings
The Normans
Edward the Confessor
Harold Godwinson
Harald Hardrada
William of Normandy

5 January 1066 AD



Edward the Confessor dies leaving the throne empty.

25 September 1066 AD



The Battle of Stamford Bridge and the defeat of the Vikings

14 October 1066 AD



The Battle of Hastings begins – and ends – with the death of Harold Godwinson and the victory of William of Normandy

What first-order concepts do I need to learn below?

Hint: remember! A first-order concept is a word historians use to describe facts related to events.

➤ Facts on life in 1066:

- At the start of the year 1066, a king called Edward the Confessor was in charge of England.
- England under Edward was much the same as it was at the time the Staffordshire Hoard was buried – mud huts littered the landscape, settlements existed, but new forces were rising across the oceans.
- One of these forces were the Vikings. They were brutal raiders who used long boats to travel from coast-to-coast, stealing, murdering and pillaging anything they could.

➤ Facts on the different contenders to the throne:

- The Vikings were led by a fierce warrior called Harald Hardrada – a giant of a man.
- In 1066, Edward the Confessor died. He had no children, but promised the throne to many people...
- Harald Hardrada believed he should be king of England as his ancestor had ruled parts of England before Edward the Confessor.
- Before Edward died, he also promised the king to two men – William of Normandy (France), and Harold Godwinson (one of his lieutenants who ruled parts of England).

➤ Facts on the Battle of Hastings:

- The first group to invade were the Vikings. They invaded Stamford Bridge (an area in the North of England). They were soon defeated by the Anglo-Saxons led by Harold Godwinson.
- When the Vikings were defeated, Harold heard a message that the Normans had landed in the south of England and were preparing to invade the capital.
- Harold marches his forces 300 miles south to face off against the Normans. His troops were tired and many were still injured. The Normans used good tactics – particularly the false-retreat – to lure out Harold's forces. When his guard was done, the Norman archers fired on Godwinson, killing him.
- William of Normandy was now the King of England.

What second-order concepts do I need to learn below?

Hint: remember! A 'second-order concept' is a phrase historians use to describe the history skills that are used in history – like putting events in chronological order, or analysing sources!

- Chronology is putting events in order – such as the Battle of Stamford Bridge coming before Hastings.
- The different factors leading to William's victory, such as luck, leadership and Harold's mistakes.



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Look to the past:

Below is a primary source:

It is part of the Bayeux Tapestry – a large piece of cloth created by the Normans after their victory in 1066. It shows Harold Godwinson with an arrow through his eye. Why would the Normans depict their moment of victory like this?

