

**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.

**Assessment Skill focus:**

How do you know interpretation = confirming a belief using your knowledge.  
**Describe** = Giving a brief description of an event/period.



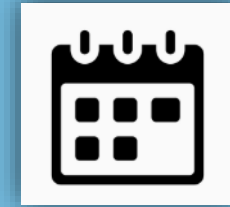
**What do I need to know about the Anglo-Saxons in the Dark Ages?**

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



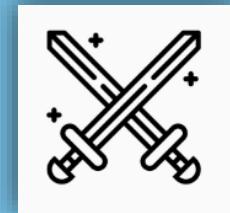
**What history skills do I need to know?**

- 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

753 BC – 500 AD

500 AD – 600 AD

Roughly 600-699 AD

The Bronze Age in Britain

The Roman Empire spans across Europe

Seven Saxon Kingdoms emerge in Britain

The Staffordshire Hoard is buried by the Anglo Saxons during a time of war

### 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 – very few artefacts or sources survived.
- 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 in 600AD. On a chronological timeline, this is 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.
- Anglo-Saxons often told myths and fables to pass the time, like the legendary tale of Beowulf!
- There were many kingdoms in Anglo-Saxon England – and 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, or Watling Street! 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.

