

Why did the Anglo-Saxons come to Britain?

The Boats That Stayed · KS2 History · Years 4–6

Name _____

Class _____

Date _____

1 Fill in the timeline

MATHS LINK

Year	What happened
AD _____	The last Roman soldiers leave Britain
about AD 450	The Angles, Saxons and _____ begin to settle
about AD 625	A king is buried in a ship at Sutton Hoo
AD 793	Vikings raid the monastery at Lindisfarne

1. How many years passed between the Romans leaving and the ship burial at Sutton Hoo? _____ years
2. The Britons were pushed west over two hundred years, starting in about AD 450. Roughly what year had they reached Wales and Cornwall? about AD _____

2 Words to know

VOCABULARY

a. Draw a line to match each word to its meaning.

estate	the tall pole that holds up a sail
kingdom	a short, sudden attack to take things
mast	a large piece of land belonging to one person
raid	a country ruled by a king

b. Finish these sentences using three of the words above.

- The Picts and Scots came on a _____ to take cattle and grain.
- No Anglo-Saxon boat we have found has a _____, so the crossing was done with oars.
- Farms grew into estates, and estates grew into a _____.

3 Think about it

CAUSE & EFFECT

There was no gold left in Britain, so the Britons paid the warriors in **land** instead.

Why did paying in land make the warriors stay?

What might have happened instead if Britain had paid them in gold?

4 Write about the crossing

ENGLISH LINK

You are in one of the boats crossing the North Sea. There is no mast and no sail, only oars. Write three or four sentences about the crossing.

*Start at least one sentence with a time phrase and a comma — for example **After many weeks**, or **By the third day**,*

Answers and teaching notes

Watch: [keystagestories.co.uk](https://www.keystagestories.co.uk)

Why did the Anglo-Saxons come to Britain? · The Boats That Stayed

1 · Timeline

AD 410 — the last Roman soldiers leave. **Jutes** — the third group with the Angles and Saxons.

a. $625 - 410 = 215$ years (accept "about 200"). **b.** $450 + 200 =$ **about AD 650**.

2 · Words to know

a. estate → a large piece of land belonging to one person · kingdom → a country ruled by a king · mast → the tall pole that holds up a sail · raid → a short, sudden attack to take things

b. raid · mast · kingdom

3 · Think about it

Why land made them stay: gold can be carried home, but land cannot. To get anything from land you have to live on it and farm it. Accept any answer that reaches "you cannot take land away with you".

If Britain had paid in gold: the warriors could have sailed home with it, so they may not have settled — and England might not have been named after them. Accept reasoned alternatives.

4 · Write about the crossing

Not marked for content. Look for: a fronted adverbial with a comma (Year 4 statutory); detail drawn from the film (oars, salt water, weeks at sea, nowhere to sleep); and past tense held throughout.

Curriculum

National Curriculum KS2 History — *Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots*. Question 1 links to Maths (calculating intervals between years) and question 4 to English (fronted adverbials, Year 4 statutory).

Where each question comes from in the film

- **0:13** Chapter 1 — the Romans leave, the raids begin, the message goes across the North Sea (Q1, Q2)
- **1:30** Chapter 2 — the boats, the crossing, paid in land (Q3, Q4)
- **2:52** Chapter 3 — two hundred years, pushed west, England is named (Q1b)

Three things the film is careful about

- **The Romans did not leave in one go.** Soldiers were withdrawn a few at a time across decades. AD 410 is the point when none were left, not the date of an order.
- **Vortigern may not have existed.** The film says "the story goes that", because that is all the sources support. Useful for teaching the difference between evidence and tradition.
- **No mast has been found — that is not the same as no sail.** Every Anglo-Saxon boat found from this period lacks a mast, but absence of evidence is not evidence of absence. The film says so out loud.