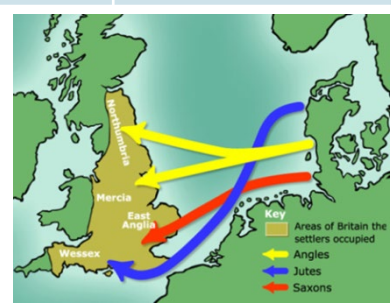


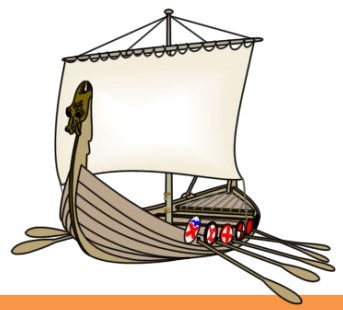
A History of Early English

600BC	The Celts (or Britons) were the first settlers in Britain.
55BC	The Romans invaded bringing Latin words.
450AD	The Anglo-Saxons invade next. They were a group of German tribes made up of the Jutes, Angles, Saxons.
	They travelled to Britain in longships .
	They were the first speakers of Old English .



The Anglo-Saxon Invasions.

An Anglo-Saxon longship.



Les Beaucamps High School - English Department

Knowledge Organiser - Year 7 Early English: Beowulf.

Beowulf Context:

1	Beowulf is the only surviving poem from Anglo-Saxon times and the oldest surviving story written in Old English.
2	Whilst some elements of the story are without doubt fictional (monsters and dragons!), archaeologists have found evidence in Scandinavia which suggest that some parts of the story are true.
3	It is likely the story was brought to Britain by the Anglo-Saxons who crossed the North Sea in their longships.
4	As most people could not read or write, the tale was passed on by storytellers known as 'scops'.
5	The epic poem was first written down by an unknown author sometime between 700-800 AD.
6	As the printing press did not exist, copies of the poem were carefully handwritten.
7	Beowulf represents the typical Anglo-Saxon hero: a warrior.
8	An Anglo-Saxon hero was typically strong, intelligent and courageous, yet humble. They had to be willing to face any danger without fear. These characteristics are still reflected in our modern heroes.

Beowulf Plot:

1	In Denmark a murderous ogre, Grendel, torments the people. None of King Hrothgar's warriors dares to fight Grendel.
2	Beowulf, a celebrated Swedish warrior, travels to Denmark. The King once saved his father's life and he wants to repay his kindness. He fights and defeats Grendel.
3	Grendel's mother, a she-monster, vows revenge. She attacks the King's Hall where she kills many soldiers, including the King's oldest and closest friend, Ursula.
4	Beowulf vows to find Grendel's mother. He swims to her underwater home: they fight a gruelling battle. He steals her magic sword and uses this to slay her.
5	Valiant Beowulf returns to Sweden where he inherits the throne. He rules for fifty years and is a noble and respected King.
6	All is well, until a thief steals from a fierce dragon. Enraged, the dragon breathes fire on houses throughout the kingdom, including the hall of Beowulf.
7	Beowulf, now much older, vows to defeat the dragon. He fights it but is injured when the dragon breathes fire on him.
8	In a final act of courage, Beowulf cuts the dragon into two with his sword.
9	Old and injured: Beowulf dies.

Keyword:	Definition:
1. epic poem	A long narrative poem that tells a story about warriors and heroes.
2. kenning	Where Anglo-Saxons use two words together (a compound) to describe something e.g. whale-road meaning sea.
3. kingdom	A country or region that is ruled by a king or queen.
4. mead-hall	A place of safety and community in the Anglo-Saxon world. Mead, an alcoholic drink made of fermented honey, was served there.
5. minstrel	A medieval singer who sang or recited heroic poetry for nobility.
6. ogre	A large, cruel, frightening man who eats people.
7. protagonist	The main character in a story e.g. Beowulf.
8. saga	A long story of heroic achievement.
9. scop	Pronounced 'shop.' An Anglo-Saxon minstrel (story-teller).
10. slay	To kill someone or something in a violent way.
11. valiant	Brave, heroic, courageous.
12. vengeance	The act of killing or harming someone because they have harmed you.

Year 7
Early English: Beowulf.

Your knowledge organiser contains essential information that you should learn to help you in class.

This page contains links, ideas and activities to help you further your knowledge.



With thanks to :



Books Available:

Guilles Alles Library Children's Collection (click on book to be taken to the library catalogue).

						
An accessible version of the tale.	Choose your own destiny!	Comic strip Beowulf.	Read then write about the Anglo-Saxons.	What they don't tell you...	An epic Anglo-Saxon tale.	For those who like their history horrible.

We also have fiction and non-fiction books on the Anglo-Saxons in the school library. See Mrs Woolston who will be happy to help you find what you're looking for.

Useful Websites:

BBC Bitesize Anglo-Saxons	This site is easy to access and is packed with interesting information about the Anglo-Saxons. There are also videos. The 'Life in Anglo Saxon Britain' video includes a brief animated summary of Beowulf.
Britannica.com Beowulf	Trusty Encyclopaedia Britannica is a good 'go to' before looking on less accurate wiki sites.
Animated Beowulf	Animated Beowulf in six parts. This offers a more detailed telling of the story. Worth Watching to refresh your memory of the story.
Primary Facts Beowulf	Another source of information on Beowulf. Aimed at upper primary, so you should be able to access this without help. Search the site for information on the Anglo-Saxons too.
British Library Beowulf - Original Text	View the only surviving original copy of Beowulf which is kept at The British Library. There are also other original examples of Old English and other texts to take a look at.
DK Find Out: Anglo Saxons	Dorling Kingsley site full of interesting Anglo-Saxon facts.
Collins Dictionary -Old English	Explore Old English and learn which Anglo-Saxon words survived the Viking and Norman invasions.
How to Draw a Dragon	Learn how to draw a dragon –this includes a video tutorial.
What is a kenning?	Find out more about Kennings and have a go at making your own!
Anglo-Saxon Recipes	Why not try some of the Anglo-Saxon recipes at the bottom of this page? Honey Oat Cakes sound delicious!