

Writing About the Anglo-Saxons



1 Key Vocabulary – Nouns

Connect each noun with its explanation by drawing branches or using colour-coding.

NOUN		EXPLANATION
a origin	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> a social system in which some people have more power, wealth and status than others
b hierarchy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> the local lords in the Anglo-Saxon hierarchy
c alphabet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> the name of the Anglo-Saxon runic alphabet
d thegns or thanes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> angular letters used by the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings to carve words into wood and stone
e Futhorc	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> where a person or group of people come from
f runes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> when people or soldiers enter a country and try to take over by force
g invasion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> people who are the property of another and who are forced to work without pay and obey others' commands
h slaves	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> a group of letters (or runes) that permit people to write down their spoken language

2 Key Vocabulary – Verbs

Fill in the missing verbs in the sentences below.

carved • come • evolved • gave • invaded • spoke • was • were

- The Anglo-Saxons **invaded** Britain.
- They **carved** their runes into wood and stone.
- They **were** fierce warriors, farmers and metal-workers.
- The Anglo-Saxons **gave** Germanic dialects.
- These dialects **evolved** or developed into Old English.
- About a quarter of our modern English words **came** from Old English.
- The person with the greatest power **was** the king.
- The Anglo-Saxons **spoke** us the words for Wednesday and Thursday.

3 Match the sentence beginnings with the sentence ends below. Use branches or colour coding. Highlight the past-tense verb within each sentence start. The first has been completed as an example.

SENTENCE START

SENTENCE END

a The Angles, Saxons and Jutes **came** from...

b They used an alphabet...

c Most Anglo-Saxons were...

d The Anglo-Saxons gave the modern English language...

e Most of the people worked...

f The Anglo-Saxons spoke...

g The Anglo-Saxon hierarchy consisted of...

h Some Anglo-Saxons were...

...called Futhorc.

...not able to read.

...as farmers.

...the region we now call Denmark and northern Germany.

...various German dialects (regional languages).

...skillful metalworkers.

...many simple and common words, such as man, sheep and day.

...a king, some earls, many thegns or local lords, free peasants, bonded peasants and slaves.

4 Write your **own ending** for the sentence beginnings provided below. Use the words and information in the exercises above.

Try to add an extra sentence if you can: e.g. **The second most powerful people in the Anglo-Saxon hierarchy were...the earls. Their role was to collect taxes and fight for the king.**

a The Angles, Saxons and Jutes were tribes who came from...

b The most powerful person in the Anglo-Saxon hierarchy was...

c Very few people in Anglo-Saxon society were able to...

d The least powerful people in the Anglo-Saxon hierarchy were called...

e A large number of words in modern English come from...

