



## Lesson 8

### Learning Question:

LQ: How do I find out about the similarities and differences between the Mayans and the Anglo Saxons?

### Success Criteria:

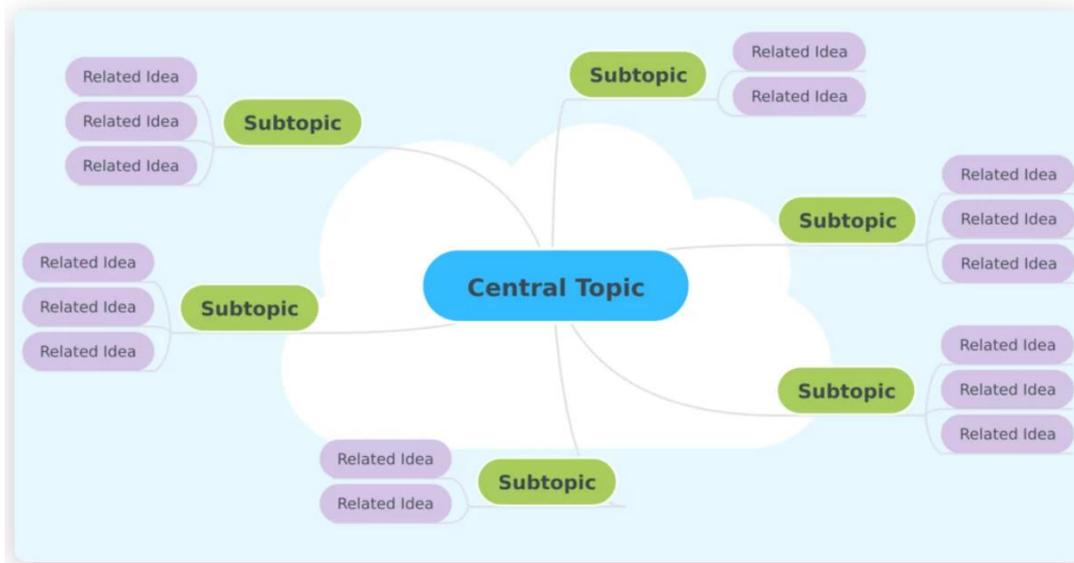
- Recall facts about the Mayan civilisation
- Find out about the Anglo Saxons
- Identify similarities and differences between the Mayans and the Anglo Saxons

### Vocabulary

- Mayans
- Angles
- Saxons
- Jutes
- Anglo Saxons

# What have you learnt about the Maya civilisation?

## Create a mind map to show what you have learnt.



Now we are going to refresh our memories about the Anglo Saxons.

# THE Anglo Saxons

Britain AD 449 - 1066



The Anglo Saxons were formed from the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes from different parts of Europe.

They came to England between AD 440 and AD 449 and remained in power until 1066 (when King Harold died at the Battle of Hastings).

They established 4 main kingdoms: East Anglia, Mercia, Northumbria and Wessex; and a further 3 kingdoms: Essex, Sussex and Kent.

Let's look at a timeline for the Anglo Saxons...

## Anglo-Saxon Britain

450	First invasions of the Jutes from Jutland, Angles from South of Denmark and Saxons from Germany. <b>Britain is divided up into the Seven Kingdoms</b> of Northumbria, Mercia, Anglia, Wessex, Essex, Sussex and Kent.
450	Saxons Hengist and Horsa settle in Kent.
460	St Patrick returns to convert Ireland
516	The Battle of Mount Badon: Britons under an unknown leader defeat the Angles and Saxons
597	St Augustine brings Christianity to England from Rome  King Æthelberht of Kent gave him land in Canterbury to build a church. Æthelberht became the first Anglo-Saxon king to turn his back on paganism and become Christian.
600	Æthelberht is now one of the most powerful kings in England
617	Northumbria becomes the Supreme Kingdom
627	Edwin of Northumbria becomes the first Christian king in the north of England
779	Mercia becomes the Supreme Kingdom and King Offa builds a Dyke along the Welsh Border

# Society

- Each Kingdom had its own King.
- Under each tribal King, there were three classes:
  - noblemen
  - churls (who were peasants or freemen/yeomen – many of them owning land)
  - slaves (a slave could be bought for the price of eight oxen).

# Houses

Houses were simple and were built from oak and thatch. They made towns into centres for trade and manufacturing.



Important people would live in a larger building with their advisors and soldiers – this was called the hall.

# Farming

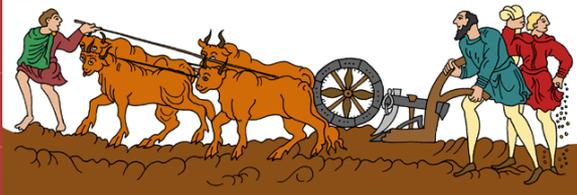
Most average Saxons were farmers. Families lived in small villages and grew produce on the land around them. They grew barley, oats and wheat for food and flax for making linen for clothing.

Sheep were kept for their meat and wool. Cows and pigs were kept for milk and meat.

Men and women both had parts to play in the farming.

Men would do the threshing and ploughing, whilst the women would grind the cereal grains into flour to make bread and cakes. They would also

spin yarn from sheep wool.



# Religion

The Anglo Saxons were pagans who worshipped their own gods and goddesses.

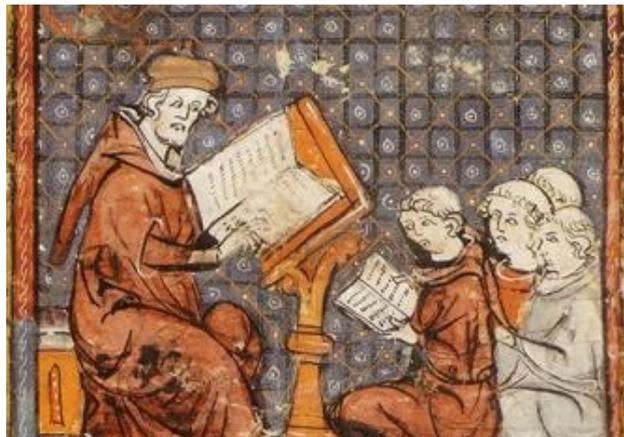
These were some of their gods and goddesses.

However, they gradually converted to Christianity.

GOD	GOD OF WHAT?
Balder	God of Immortality
Eostre	Goddess of Birth
Frigg	Goddess of Love
Hel	Goddess of Death
Loki	God of Cunning
Saxnot	God of the Family
Thunor	God of Thunder
Tiw	God of War
Wade	God of the Sea
Wayland	God of Metalworking
Woden	Chief God

# Education

There was no specific education system for the Anglo Saxons. However, Alfred the Great, one of the Anglo Saxon kings, thought education was very important and had books translated from Latin into Anglo-Saxon so more people could read them and learn.



# Food

The Anglo-Saxons enjoyed food and drink and often held big feasts. They grew wheat to make flour for bread and barley to make beer. They ate a mix of vegetables, including: onions, peas, parsnips and cabbage. Food was cooked over the fire in the middle of the house; meat was roasted and eaten with bread. They drank ale and mead - a kind of beer made sweet with honey - from great goblets and drinking horns.



# Entertainment

The Anglo Saxons enjoyed horse racing, hunting, feasting and music-making. They played dice and board games such as draughts and chess. Entertainment during feasts included listening to a harp being played and juggling balls and knives.



## Clothing for men

Anglo Saxons made their own clothes out of natural materials. The men wore long-sleeved tunics made of wool or linen, often decorated with a pattern. Their trousers were woollen and held up by a leather belt from which they could hang their tools such as knives and pouches.

Many very poor people could not afford to wear shoes or trousers. Soldiers wore long coats with chain mail attached to them.



# Clothing for women

The most common Anglo Saxon clothes for women were black or brown woollen gowns. As Christianity became popular throughout Anglo Saxon Britain, it was thought that women should have their heads covered. Plain or embroidered veils were popular, which often reached down to the ankles, but many did not wear shoes until the later Anglo Saxon period.





## Crafts



- The Saxons used clay to create pottery.
- Bones and antlers were used as a material for making buckles, spoons, needles and other things. Antler is tougher than bone so it was used to make combs.
- Glass was made from a mixture of sand, potash and natron (minerals).



- Saxons made a selection of jewellery including pendants and broaches.



## Laws and Justice (think back to our topic on crime and punishment!)

- The Anglo Saxons had some rather grisly and brutal forms of punishment for people who disobeyed the law, eg. whipping, cutting off limbs, being burned alive or being stretched on a rack.
- There were no law enforcement groups (like the police) so justice was claimed by the families of the victims of crimes.
- A common oath to obey the King's law and be a good person was sworn by all men from the age of 12.



# Task

**Choose how you show the differences and similarities between the Mayan civilisation and the Anglo Saxons.**

**Hard** – Draw images of aspects of the Mayans and the Anglo Saxons to show the similarities and differences between them.

**Harder** – Create two columns in your book and write similarities between the Mayans and the Anglo Saxons in one and differences between them in the other.

**Hardest** – Write about the similarities and differences between the Mayans and the Anglo Saxons.

***Plenary:***

Would you have preferred to be part of the  
Mayan civilisation or the Anglo Saxon  
civilisation? Why?

## Next lesson...

You will start to produce an informative leaflet about the Mayan civilisation.