



Information for Teachers

Anglo-Saxon Conversion to Christianity

Anglo-Saxons came to **Britain** as **Pagans**, but from the **6th century**, they began to convert to **Christianity**. In the beginning, **Christianity** only reached wealthy and important members of society.

It took many years for **Christianity** to become the main religion in **Britain** and many ordinary people held onto parts of their **Pagan beliefs** and **traditions**.

It was only from the **7th century** onwards that **Anglo-Saxon** rulers started to put rules in place to force people to follow the **Christian religion**.

Anglo-Saxon Burials

Pagans cremated and buried their loved ones when they died. They were usually buried with **grave goods** to take to the **afterlife**. The grave goods would tell you something about the person that died, like how rich or important they were, or if they were a good warrior. They were also buried with food and drink, so they had a good meal on their journey.

Christians believed that their loved ones should be buried, not cremated, and put to rest close to a **church**. Burying your loved ones with **grave goods** was less common after **Christianity** was brought in because it went against **Christian** beliefs about what would happen after you die. **Anglo-Saxons** have been found buried with jewellery in the shape of a cross, but this isn't very common.

Activity:

Sprot has discovered an **Anglo-Saxon** grave from the **early 7th century**!

Draw and label objects inside the grave to show the gradual conversion from **Paganism** to **Christianity**.

Use the prompts to help you and don't forget to explain your choices.

Hint: Children should include a mix of grave goods and Christian burial practices to show how Anglo-Saxons had a mix of beliefs when Christianity first came to Britain.

