

Anglo-Saxons, Picts and Scots

Learning Objective: To know about paganism and the spread of Christianity in Britain.

Today, we will look at the different religions in Britain and use this to find out more about the person buried at Sutton Hoo. Before we begin, let's look at some important vocabulary.

CHANGE

CONTINUITY



BACK

NEXT

The terms 'change' and 'continuity' help us to compare different societies and time periods.

CHANGE

Things **do not** stay the same over time. Old ideas and ways of doing things end or new ideas and ways of doing things begin.

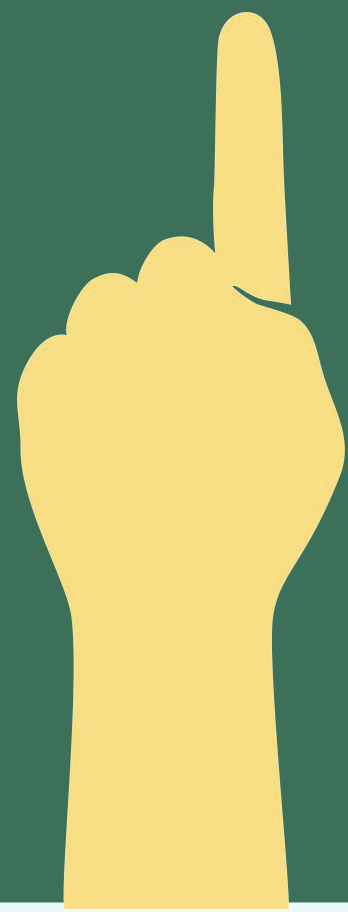
CONTINUITY

Things stay the same for long periods of time. Ideas and ways of doing things look very similar to those of the past.



Let's get started. Do you think that religious beliefs and practises in modern Britain have changed or stayed the same since Anglo-Saxon times? Vote now!

CHANGE



CONTINUITY



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NEXT

We can see both change and continuity if we compare modern and Anglo-Saxon Britain.

CONTINUITY



People have held religious beliefs and worshipped a God or gods since prehistoric times.

CHANGE



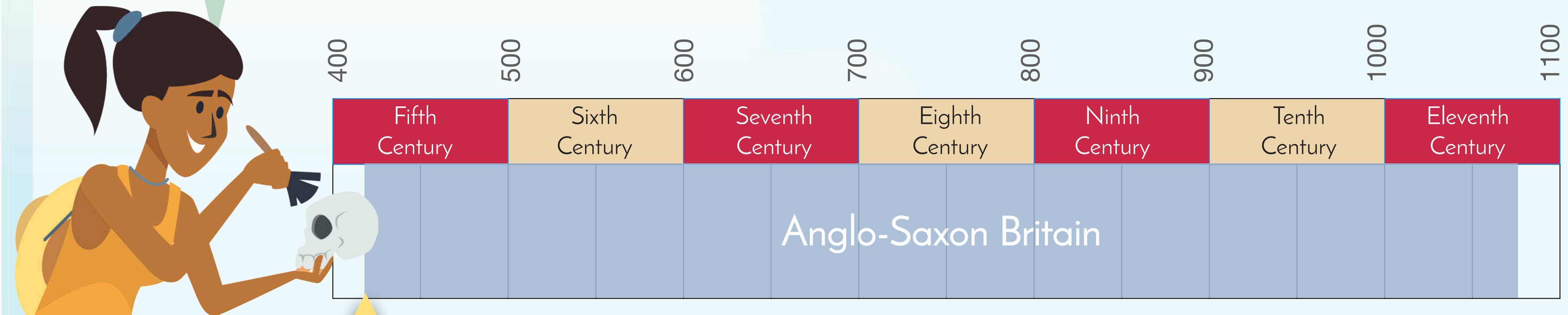
The types of religious beliefs and practices have changed over time.



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What religious beliefs and practices do you think people had at the start of the Anglo-Saxon period?



Think, pair, share your ideas.

BACK

NEXT

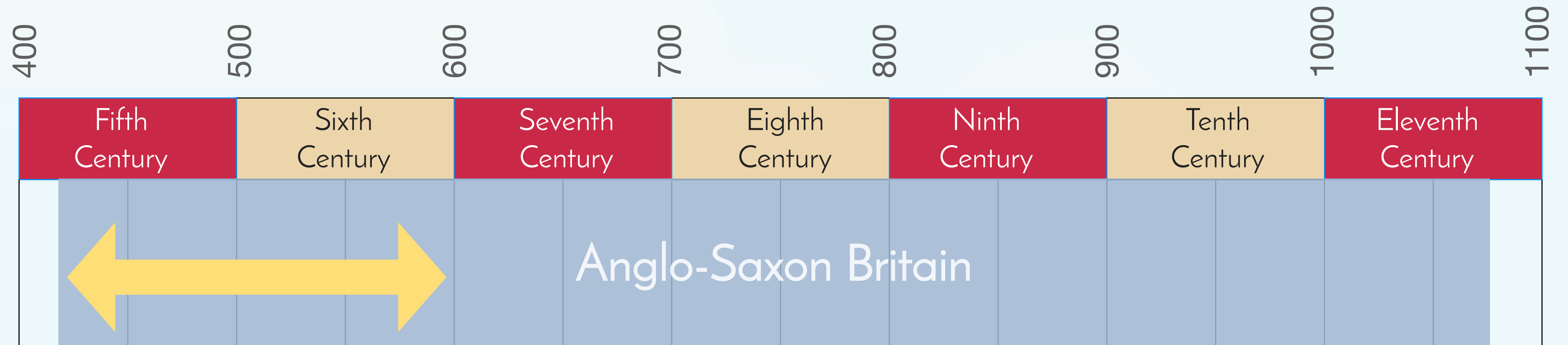
Most people were pagans, which means they worshipped many gods.

Most Picts, Scots and Britons were pagans who worshipped gods linked to the natural world. During Roman times, many Britons had become Christian. Some continued to worship God and follow the teachings of the Bible.

Settling Anglo-Saxon tribes were also pagans. They had different religious practices and worshipped different gods to pagan Picts, Scots and Britons.



How do you think people's religious beliefs and practices changed as Anglo-Saxon kingdoms started to form?



Think, pair, share your ideas.

As these kingdoms grew, many people adopted the Anglo-Saxon pagan gods and practices. These gods gave their names to the days of week we use today!

CONTINUITY



CHANGE



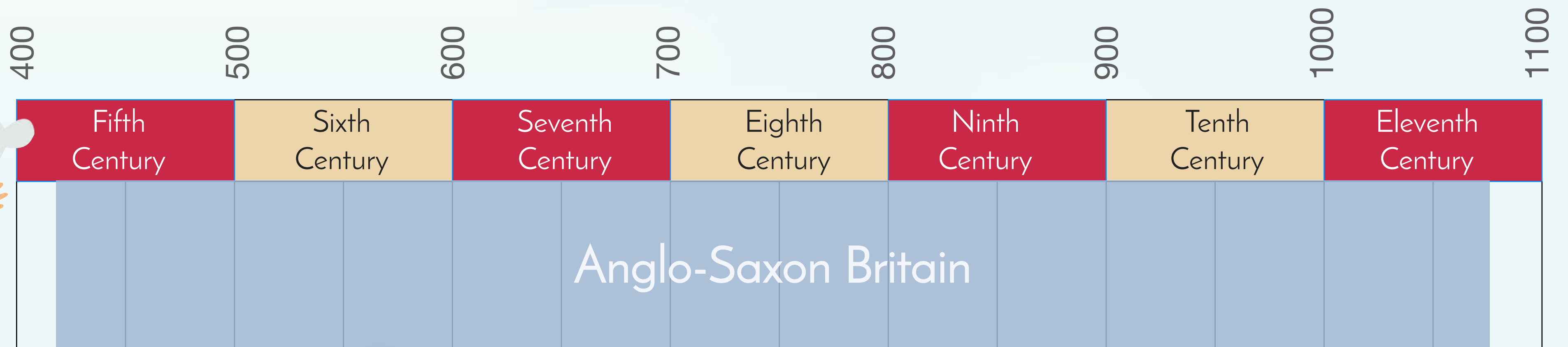
Woden - king of the gods



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Religious beliefs and practices began to change again in the late sixth century. What do you think happened?



Think, pair, share your ideas.

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The number of Christians in Britain started to rise. By the seventh century, Christianity was the main religion in Britain.



Christianity spread across Britain as Christian monks and missionaries arrived from Ireland and Rome.

A missionary is someone who promotes a religious faith.

A monk is someone who dedicates their life to Christian worship.

CONTINUITY



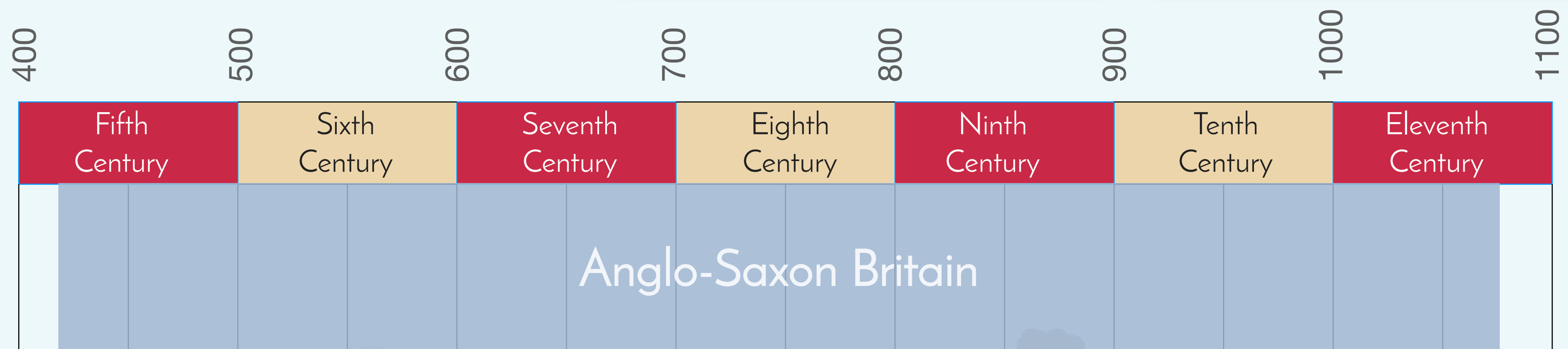
CHANGE



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In 563, St. Columba - a Christian missionary from Ireland - sailed to Iona in Dál Riata. Here, he set up a monastery and, with his monks, he began to convert Scots and Picts tribes to Christianity.

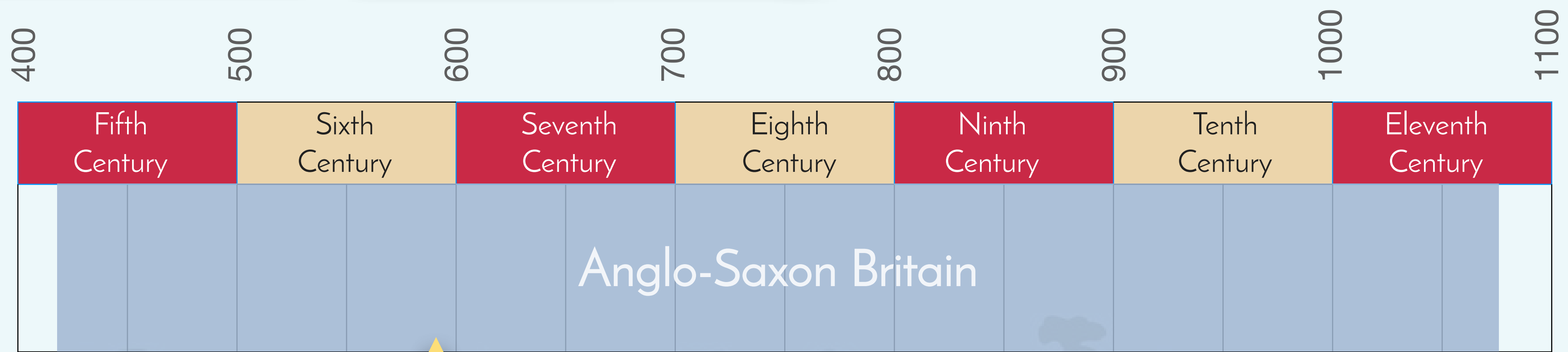


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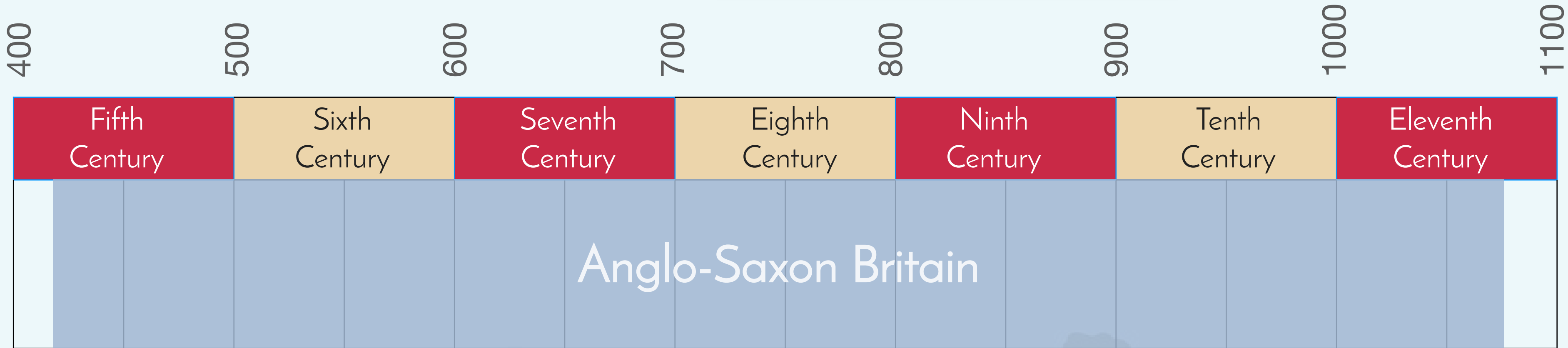
In 597, St. Augustine, a Christian missionary, was sent from Rome by the Pope to Kent. Here, Augustine converted the first Anglo-Saxon king, King Aethelbert of Kent, to Christianity and founded Canterbury Cathedral.



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In 634, St. Aidan, an Irish monk, who had spent time at the monastery of Iona, founded a new monastery at Lindisfarne. He spent time visiting ordinary people in the villages and caring for those in need.



Another important missionary was called Hadrian. Born in Libya, north Africa, Hadrian was sent to Britain by the Pope in the mid-seventh century.

Hadrian was offered the post of Archbishop of Canterbury, but refused it. Instead, he founded a school at Canterbury where he built a great library of religious manuscripts and trained the next generation of Christian priests.

Why do you think Hadrian turned down the opportunity to be Archbishop of Canterbury?



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Monks spent time studying, praying and writing holy texts.

Every book or paper was written by hand. The most famous text is the Book of Kells which contains four gospels from the Bible. Each page is beautifully decorated using coloured ink to show that the book was special and sacred.

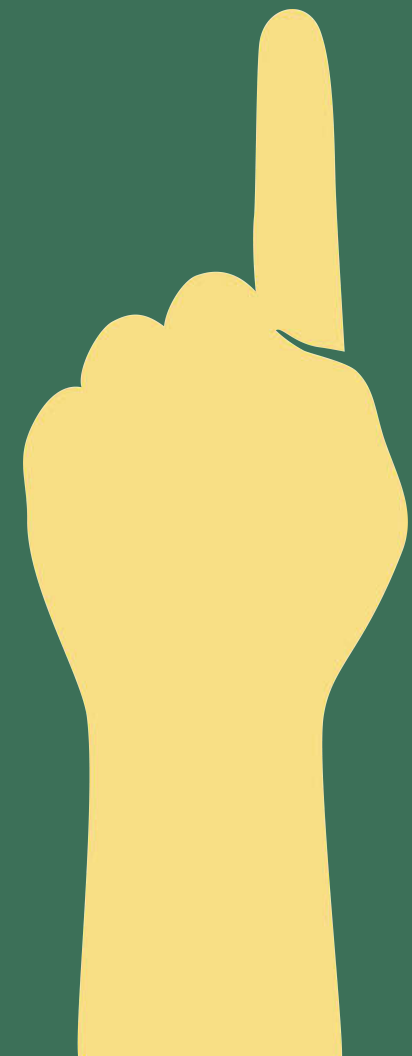


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Do you think everyone in Anglo-Saxon Britain converted to Christianity? Vote now.

YES



NO



BACK

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Not everyone converted to Christianity.

After King Aethelbert became Christian in 597, many other Anglo-Saxon kings and ordinary people did too. Some held on to their pagan beliefs. Others, like King Raedwald of East Anglia, converted but kept some pagan traditions.



King Aethelbert



Let's go fact finding!

Your task:

Record how religious beliefs and practices changed over time on your Fact Sheet.
All the facts you need to answer your questions are hidden around our classroom.
Can you find them all?



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PLENARY

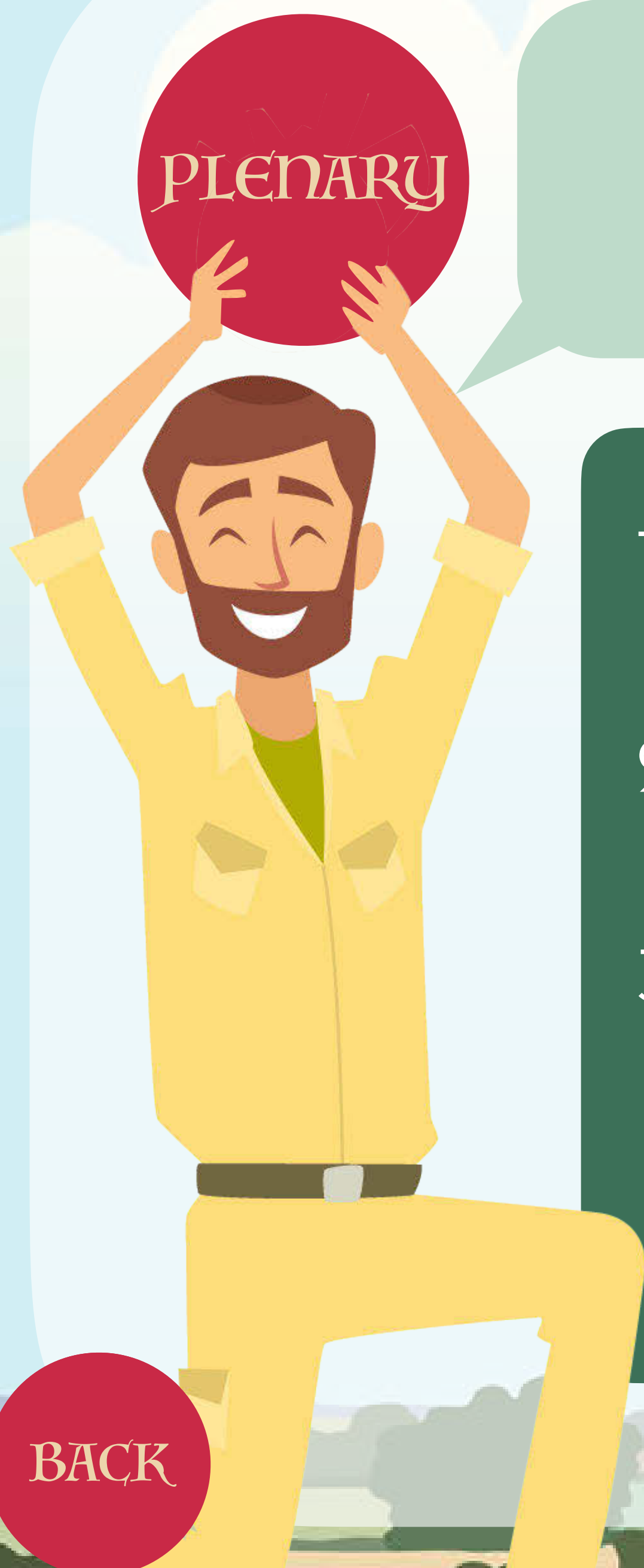
Based on the evidence at Sutton Hoo, do you think the person buried there was Christian or pagan?



A reconstruction of the ship burial at Sutton Hoo

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PLENARY

The burial looks more pagan than Christian.

1. Pagans buried people in different positions.
2. Bodies were often positioned north to south.
3. Pagans buried people with objects they could use in the afterlife, such as: brooches, pots, games and weapons.

1. Christians buried people on their backs with their legs extended.
2. Bodies were positioned east to west, pointing towards the Holy Land.
3. Christians did not usually bury objects with the dead.

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