



Christianity first came to Britain in the Roman period. The number of Christians increased during the third century but decreased again after the Romans left in 410.

Missionaries and monks worked to revive Christianity in Britain. A missionary is someone who promotes a religious faith. A monk is someone who dedicates their life to religious worship.





St Columba was a Christian from Ireland. He founded a Christian monastery in Iona, a small island on the West coast of Dál Riata. Columba and the monks of Iona converted many Scots and Picts to Christianity.

St Aidan was an Irish monk who set up a monastery on the island of Lindisfarne in the north of Britain. He spent time visiting ordinary people in villages and many people were converted.





When people decided to become a Christian, they were baptised in a river or stream. Christians believe that the water cleanses you and signals a fresh, new start.

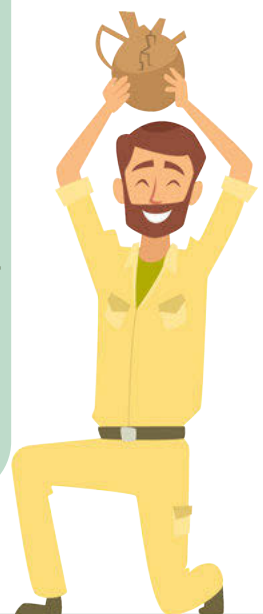
The first Anglo-Saxon kings to become Christians were Aethelbert of Kent, Raedwald of East Anglia and Oswald of Northumbria. However, King Raedwald also kept some of his pagan traditions. Other Anglo-Saxon Kings converted later in the seventh century.





Christians wanted to convert the Anglo-Saxons so that they would go to heaven when they died. They believed non-Christians would go to hell.

In 597, the Pope sent St Augustine and a group of monks from Rome to Kent in southern Britain. Here, Augustine converted the first Anglo-Saxon king to Christianity - Aethlebert of Kent. Augustine also established Canterbury Cathedral.





Pagan Anglo-Saxons were buried with lots of their belongings, such as: pots, weapons, games and jewellery. These were known as 'grave goods'. Anglo-Saxons believed they would use these in the after-life.

Christians believe that when you die you go to Heaven and that you do not need your earthly belongings in Heaven. So, Christians did not bury people with grave goods.





Pagan Anglo-Saxons buried people in lots of different positions, such as crouched, on their side or on their front.

Christians buried people shrouded in cloth and laid on their backs with their legs stretched out. Bodies were positioned east to west to face the Holy Land (Israel).





Pagan Anglo-Saxons held a festival in April to honour the goddess of Spring, Eostre. The Christian festival of Easter takes its name from this festival.

By the seventh century, Christianity had become the main religion in Britain.





MONDAY was named after the Anglo-Saxon pagan god, Mani (Moon). Mani was the brother of Sol (the Sun). Both rode chariots across the sky.

TUESDAY was named after the Anglo-Saxon pagan god of war, Tiw. Tiw was also linked to honour, justice and courage.





WEDNESDAY was named after the Anglo-Saxon pagan king of the gods, Woden. Pagans believed Woden could guide your spear as this was his sacred weapon.

THURSDAY was named after the Anglo-Saxon pagan god of thunder, lightning and fertility, Thor. Lots of pagan graves have been found to contain hammer-shaped charms dedicated to Thor.





FRIDAY was named after the Anglo-Saxon pagan goddess of Love and motherhood, Frigg. They prayed to Frigg to provide a good harvest.

SUNDAY was named after the Anglo-Saxon pagan god of the sun, Sol. Sol, was the sister of Mani (the moon). Both rode chariots across the sky.





Anglo-Saxons believed in and worshipped lots of different gods. Christians only believe in and worship one God.

In the seventh century, Hadrian, a Christian missionary born in Libya, north Africa, founded an important Christian school at Canterbury. Here, he built a great library of religious manuscripts and trained the next generation of Christian priests.



Name: _____

Date: _____



Time to go on a Fact Hunt! All the information you need to answer these questions can be found on the Fact Cards stuck up around your classroom. Circle or write in the answers below

1) Which day of the week was named after the Anglo-Saxon pagan god, Woden?

Monday

Wednesday

Friday

Sunday

2) How might a pagan Anglo-Saxon have been buried?

on their back

on their side

3) Who set up a Christian monastery at Iona?

St. Aidan

St. Columba

4) Where did St. Aidan found a monastery?

Lindisfarne

Canterbury

5) When did Christianity become the main religion in Britain?

7th century (600-699)

4th century (300-399)

6) How did Christians bury their dead?

east to west

north to south

7) Name two Anglo-Saxon kings who became Christians.

8) Where do Christians believe you go when you die?

Iona

Heaven

9) Circle two objects a pagan Anglo-Saxon might bury with them for the afterlife:

Weapons

Bible

Jewellery

Flowers

10) How did Hadrian of Canterbury contribute to the spread of Christianity in Britain?

He set up a school to train Christian priests.

He became Archbishop of Canterbury.

Name: _____

Date: _____



Time to go on a Fact Hunt! All the information you need to answer these questions can be found on the Fact Cards stuck up around your classroom. Write in your answers below

1) Which day of the week was named after the Anglo-Saxon pagan god, Woden?

2) How would a pagan Anglo-Saxon be laid in their grave?

3) Who set up a Christian monastery at Iona?

4) Where did St. Aidan found a monastery?

5) In which century did Christianity become the main religion in Britain?

6) How did Christians bury their dead?

7) Name two Anglo-Saxon kings who became Christians.

8) Where do Christians believe you go when you die?

9) Name two objects a pagan Anglo-Saxon might bury with them for the afterlife:

10) How did Hadrian of Canterbury contribute to the spread of Christianity in Britain?

Name: _____

Date: _____



Time to go on a fact hunt! All the information you need to answer these questions can be found on the Fact Cards stuck up around your classroom. Write in your answers below

1) What ceremony did people take part in when they became a Christian and why?

2) How would a pagan Anglo-Saxon be laid in their grave?

3) Who set up a Christian monastery at Iona?

4) Where did St. Aidan found a monastery?

5) In which century did Christianity become the main religion in Britain?

6) How did Christians bury their dead?

7) Name three Anglo-Saxon kings who became Christians.

8) Where do Christians believe you go when you die?

9) What objects might you find in a pagan grave?

10) How did Hadrian of Canterbury contribute to the spread of Christianity in Britain?

11) Describe the main difference between pagan and Christian beliefs:

12) What do you think was the biggest change in the religious beliefs and practices of people during the Anglo-Saxon period? Why?

Name: _____

Date: _____



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5) When did Christianity become the main religion in Britain?

7th century (600-699)

4th century (300-399)

6) How did Christians bury their dead?

east to west

north to south

7) Name two Anglo-Saxon kings who became Christians.

Any two of:
King Aethelbert of Kent;
King Raewald of East Anglia;
King Oswald of Northumbria.

8) Where do Christians believe you go when you die?

Iona

Heaven

9) Circle two objects a pagan Anglo-Saxon might bury with them for the afterlife:

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Bible

Jewellery

Flowers

10) How did Hadrian of Canterbury contribute to the spread of Christianity in Britain?

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He became Archbishop of Canterbury.

Name: _____

Date: _____



Time to go on a fact hunt! All the information you need to answer these questions can be found on the Fact Cards stuck up around your classroom. Write in your answers below

1) What ceremony did people take part in when they became a Christian and why?

They were baptised in a river or stream to cleanse them of their old life and begin a new Christian life.

2) How would a pagan Anglo-Saxon be laid in their grave?

They could be laid in different positions: crouched, on their side or on their front.

3) Who set up a Christian monastery at Iona?

The Irish monk and missionary, St Columba.

4) Where did St. Aidan found a monastery?

Lindisfarne in north-east Britain.

5) In which century did Christianity become the main religion in Britain?

By the seventh century, Christianity was the main religion in Britain.

6) How did Christians bury their dead?

They wrapped them in shrouds and laid them on their backs, east to west, facing the Holy Land.

7) Name three Anglo-Saxon kings who became Christians.

*King Aethelbert of Kent
King Raedwald of East Anglia
King Oswald of Northumbria*

8) Where do Christians believe you go when you die?

Heaven.

9) What objects might you find in a pagan grave?

The objects could include pots, weapons, games, jewellery and charms.

10) How did Hadrian of Canterbury contribute to the spread of Christianity in Britain?

He set up a school to train the next generation of Christian priests.

11) Describe the main difference between pagan and Christian beliefs:

Anglo-Saxons believed in many gods whereas Christians believed in one God.

12) What do you think was the biggest change in the religious beliefs and practices of people during the Anglo-Saxon period? Why?

Individual answers.

Name: _____

Date: _____



Pagan Anglo-Saxons buried lots of objects in their graves. These objects were important to them and tell us a lot about their lives. In the space below, draw five objects that tell us about your life and describe why these are important to you.

Object	Importance

Name: _____

Date: _____



Pagan Anglo-Saxons buried lots of objects in their graves. These objects were important to them and tell us a lot about their lives. In the space below, draw five objects that tell us about your life and describe why these are important to you and what could they tell future archaeologists?

Object	Importance to me	What these tell future archeologists