



Handforth Grange History – Dark Ages

Primary School

Year 3/4 Summer Term Cycle A

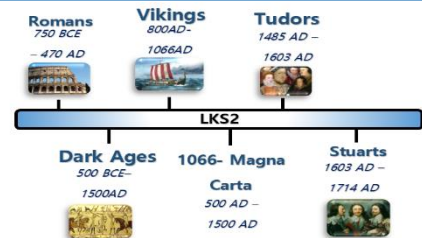
All children - regardless of ability or background - have equal access to an exciting, context based history curriculum which provides an understanding of chronology, knowledge of significant individuals and events, and ensures that all children can form and justify historical opinions.

Why is so little known about the Dark Ages?

How do previous questions/topics link to the current topic?

- What was happening in the world during that time?
- How did the Greek civilisation compare to the life in the Dark Ages?
- How are the two ages similar/ different?

Where does it fit in?



Key Knowledge

- The Dark Ages is also known as the Early Middle Ages because it came between periods of time with highly developed civilisations.
- The Dark ages began at the end of the Roman Empire, which was also a time when a global cold front swept across the earth, making farming difficult and causing groups of people to die out.
- As the Roman Empire fell apart, new groups of people (Barbarians) scattered across the land. They were uneducated people who spoke different languages so they struggled to get on with each other. They replaced the more civilized Romans
- Because of this, the Dark Ages were a time when the population was declining, there was little literature or other arts and lots of battles.
- At this time, the Anglo Saxons lived in Britain, the Vikings lived in Scandanavia and the Byzantines lived in Europe.
- As the world began to warm up again, farming became more successful and populations started to grow.
- As life settled down, land was divided up into farms, fighting died down and people began to focus more on education and religion again, particularly Christianity.

Key Vocabulary

civilisations	the society, culture and way of life of a particular area
empire	a group of countries ruled over by a single monarch
Europe	a continent of the northern hemisphere, bounded by the Mediterranean sea and mountain ranges
Roman Empire	The large areas of land governed by emperors who had complete power Mediterranean in Europe, Africa, and Asia
Barbarians	people not belonging to one of the great civilisations (Greek, Roman, Christian)
population	all the inhabitants of a particular place
Anglo Saxons	people from Germany who inhabited England from the 5 th century to the Norman conquest
Vikings	Scandinavians in the 8-11 th centuries who travelled by sea to raid and settle in Europe

Timeline



Emperor Romulus Augustus 476 AD

The last Roman Emperor before the civilisation fell



Justinian the Great 527 AD

Byzantine Emperor. Tried to revive the greatness of the Roman Empire, Re-wrote Roman law forming the basis of modern civil law



Charlemagne 850 AD

King of Western Europe. Fought and won lots of battles to gain land. Became the most powerful ruler since the Roman Empire



King Alfred the Great 871 AD

An Anglo Saxon king who tried to defend Britain from the Vikings



King Sven 1013 AD

The first Viking king in Britain



William the Conqueror 1066 AD

Became king of England after he defeated the Anglo Saxons at the Battle of Hastings, which ended the Dark Ages and began the