Learning Objective:
To find out who the Anglo-Saxons were and where they came from.
Can you remember what the archaeologists found at Sutton Hoo?

What did the objects they found tell us about the person who was buried?
The archaeologists uncovered an Anglo-Saxon burial ship under the mounds at Sutton Hoo. The body that was buried had rotted away due to the type of acidic soil it was buried in, so no one knows for sure who the person was. However, the objects show that he was a very important person, perhaps a king, who was buried around the year 625.
This timeline shows when the Anglo-Saxons lived in Britain.

One of the labels is missing! Can you remember who lived in Britain before the Anglo-Saxons arrived?
It was the Romans! They successfully invaded Britain in 43 AD and they stayed until 410. What do you know about the Romans in Britain?
Here is another timeline. In which centuries were the Anglo-Saxons in Britain?
The Anglo-Saxons were in Britain from the 5th century to the 8th century.

A century is a period of 100 years. When the Anglo-Saxons came to Britain in the year 410 it was the 5th century because there had already been 400 whole years since 0 AD.
The Romans had a huge Empire that stretched across most of Europe, parts of Asia and parts of north Africa. They were very well organised and advanced. They had a very powerful and efficient army.

The Roman army would invade and conquer a land. Governors would then be put in charge of making sure that the people in that land followed the laws of Rome. This is what happened in Britain.
Before the Romans came to Britain there were no schools, no roads and no large cities. The people who had lived in England before the Romans were called Celts. They lived in small farming communities.

Have a look at the two illustrations on the next slide. What differences can you spot?
A Celtic roundhouse

A Roman villa
The Romans brought lots of things to Britain but when they went back to Rome, the people left behind starting fighting among themselves. They all wanted to be in charge. Some people wanted to keep the Roman way of life going. Others wanted to forget the Romans had ever been there. Soon, groups of people from other places took advantage of the fact that the Romans were out of the way and the people in Britain were not united. They sailed across the North Sea and settled in Britain for themselves. These people became known as the Anglo-Saxons.

The Anglo-Saxons were not one group of people. They came from many different places. So where did they come from?
Jutes, Angles and Saxons from Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands sailed over and settled in England (although it was not called England at the time). The Roman Britons were pushed north or west. Picts and Scots lived in what is now Scotland. The Romans had never managed to conquer the north and these tribes lived as they had always done, often fighting each other or raiding other parts of Britain.
What problems do you think the Anglo-Saxons might have faced when they first started settling in Britain?
The Anglo-Saxons would not have been able to simply sail over, find land and start farming. As we have found out, there were people living in Britain at the time who wanted to keep their lands and Roman lifestyle. However, as the Roman army was no longer there to protect them, they could not defend themselves against the invaders.

The Anglo-Saxons had to battle these people to secure land to set up homes, farms and villages. They also would have had different languages, customs and traditions to the Roman Britons. Eventually the Anglo-Saxons gained control over a large part of Britain. A lot of the advances the Romans had made were forgotten and Britain gradually went back to being how it was before the Romans arrived.
Which of the words below would you associate with INVADING? Which would you associate with SETTLING?

INVADING:
build
conquer
fight
battle

SETTLING:
remain
stay
farm
seize
capture
inhabit
win
occupy