**The Dark Ages: Anglo-Saxon Period**

**Essential Question:**

<table>
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<th><strong>British Isles</strong></th>
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<td>- The islands of western coast of Europe includes:</td>
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**Early History of Britain**

- 55B.C, British Isles were inhabited by Celtics (descendants of tribes from Afghanistan)
- A Century later, the Roman army concurred the land
- Celtics were no longer in charge, the Roman invasion benefited them because they were a very civilized and highly technical society
- Roman introduced cities, roads, written scholarship & eventually introduced Christianity
- The Roman rule lasted more than 300 years. Celtics became “Romanized” adapting to this urban lifestyle
- Depended on the Roman military for protection

**Anglo-Saxon Invasion**

- The Roman Empire was tremendous, too big to guard
- Early 400’s, Roman military needed to pull out from Britain to defend their empire from hordes of defenders
- With no military force, it was not long before Britain was a target for invasion
- 449 A.D., two tribes from Germany, the Angles and the Saxons arrived in Britain
- The Celtics tried to fight against them, to no avail
- Settled by the Anglo-Saxons, the main part of Britain took on a new name: Angle-lang, which we know as England
- Their language became the official spoken language of the
The Dark Ages: Anglo-Saxon Period

Essential Question:

People: Angle-ish, which we know as English
(Remember, they spoke Old English)

Reasons Anglo-Saxons Invaded
- to collect stones to build their huts
- to use the better soil to grow crops
- to land was warmer
- to have precious objects and gold
- the rivers gave easy routes in land

Anglo-Saxon Culture
- Anglo-Saxons were warriors
- They loved to fight, and it was a way of life for them (seen as extremely barbaric and violent)
- Sometimes peace would exist by arranging a marriage. Women were known as “peace weavers”, by marrying the “other side” they were creating an alliance
- The Anglo-Saxons hated peace, fighting was more honorable to them

Anglo-Saxon Beliefs
- Early invaders were seen as “barbaric” whose lives were bleak, violent and short
- They were pagans, which means that they believed in a variety of gods
- Tiu, the god of war and sky
(We get Tuesday)
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Essential Question:

- Woden, the chief of the gods
  (We get Wednesday)
- Thor, the god of thunder & lightening
  o (We get Thursday)
- Fira, the goddess of love & Woden’s wife
  o (We get Friday)

- They had a strong belief in wyrd, or fate:
  - saved their administrator for heroic warriors
    whose fate it was to prevail in battle
- they believed that people’s fates were mostly determined by
  when a person was born

Christianity Spread

- It taught that life was hard & that the only certainty was that it
  would end in death
- Christianity missionaries arrived in 300 AD
- 690 AD all of Britain was at least nominally Christian
- monasteries offered the opportunity for education

Anglo-Saxon Literature

- literature of this time period
  - epic poems praising the deeds of heroic warriors
  - scops—profession poets would bring these poems to life. Strum
    the harp & chant in loud clear voices

Summary
The Dark Ages: Anglo Saxon Period 449-1066

Essential Question:

| - These poems reflected life at this time  
  |   o Helped instill cultural pride & taught people how a true hero should have  
| - Stories were valued because people felt this was another way to gain immortality |