Roman Britain → Anglo-Saxon Britain *How and why did life change*

Chronology: When did change happen?

What changed?
Romans arrived in Britain in **AD 43**.
Roman rule ended around **AD 410**.
Anglo-Saxons arrived after the Romans left (AD 410–600).
What stayed the same?
People continued living in Britain.
Communities still needed food, homes and leaders.
Why did it change?
The Roman Empire became weaker and soldiers left Britain.
This allowed new groups to arrive and settle.
Key idea: Change happened over time — it was not instant.

Settlers or Invaders: Who caused change?

What changed?
Anglo-Saxons came from areas that are now Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands.
New kingdoms formed such as Wessex, Mercia and Northumbria.
What stayed the same?
People still farmed and built communities.
Leadership and protection were still important.
Why did it change?
Some Anglo-Saxons wanted new land and opportunities.
Some came peacefully as settlers, others fought as invaders.
Key idea: Anglo-Saxons were both settlers and invaders.

Settlements: How did people live?

What changed?
Roman towns became less important.
Anglo-Saxons mainly lived in small villages and wooden halls.
Leadership changed from empire rule to local kings.
What stayed the same?
Farming remained important.
Trade continued.
Society still had different social groups.
Why did it change?
Without Roman protection, many people left towns.
Rural living was safer and better for farming.
Roman Britain
Stone buildings, roads, baths, towns.
Anglo-Saxon Britain
Wooden homes, farms, villages.

Religion: Why did beliefs change?

What changed?
Romans introduced Christianity.
Early Anglo-Saxons were pagan.
Christianity spread again over time.
What stayed the same?
Religion continued to be important in people's lives.
People looked to religion for guidance and meaning.
Why did it change?
Missionaries like **St Augustine** taught Christianity.
Kings converted first, influencing others.
Churches and monasteries helped spread beliefs.
Key idea: Religious change happened slowly.

Evidence: Was it really a Dark Age?

What changed?
Roman towns declined.
Anglo-Saxon culture developed in new ways.
What stayed the same?
People still made art and crafts.
Communities told stories and played games.
Trade and communication continued.
Why did it change?
Society adapted after Roman rule ended.
New discoveries (like Sutton Hoo) show skilled art and long-distance trade.
Key idea: Evidence shows Anglo-Saxon Britain was creative and active, not simply a "dark age".

Legacy – What still affects us today?

Roads and town layouts from Roman times.

Christianity spreading across Britain
Place names influenced by Anglo-Saxons.

Stories and language that shaped English culture.