


Key question 7 RSI

Is it fair to call Saxon times the Dark Ages?

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| <p>❶ There is little evidence about the Anglo-Saxons for the first two centuries after they invaded. We have only sites of burial and remains of towns and villages. That's why we call it the Dark Ages, as we are kept in the dark about so many things.</p> | <p>❷ Anglo-Saxon people made beautiful objects in rich materials, such as Alfred's jewel or objects from the Sutton Hoo ship burial.</p>  | <p>❸ The Anglo-Saxons traded with other countries so they could not have been in the Dark Ages cut off from the rest of the world.</p> |
| <p>❹ By the 8th century, we have more written evidence such as Bede's history of the English people's conversion to Christianity and the famous poem Beowulf.</p> | <p>❺ We know there were laws and systems of justice which we used when we tried Edgar.</p> | <p>❻ Some Anglo-Saxon kingdoms became the centres of great art and learning.</p> |
| <p>❼ How could magnificent books like the Lindisfarne Gospels have been created if it was the dark Ages?</p> | <p>❽ A few years ago a hoard of treasure was found in Staffordshire, which was Mercia in Saxon times.</p> | <p>❾ Compared to the Romans, the Saxons seemed far less civilized. It seemed as if the country had gone backwards rather than making progress.</p> |
| <p>❿ This was the time when the Anglo-Saxons became Christians, and churches were built.</p> | <p>11. It was called the Dark Ages because people spent so much time fighting.</p> | <p>12. After the Romans left, their towns and villas fell into decay. Britain was now less well-organised and warlords now ran small kingdoms.</p> |