

Year 4

Village settlers

Unit 9

Where did early settlers choose to settle?

Lesson 1

The purpose of the lesson is to introduce the children to how settlements develop over time and how early settlers established many of the settlements we use today.

Programme of study

- 3a** identify and describe places
- 3b** locate places and environments
- 6d** investigate settlements

Learning objectives

Children should learn

- to investigate places;
- to observe and ask questions using maps;
- about the characteristics of settlements.

Prior learning

It is helpful if children

- have investigated their own locality (e.g. Units 1 and 6)

Key geographical vocabulary

invaders, settlers, Saxon, Roman, Viking, settlement, village, flooding, river, building, features, routeways, motorways, paths, bridleways

Resources

- pictures of Anglo-Saxon and Viking settlements
- video introducing the topic
- **activity sheets:** *What would the early settlers in Britain need?* (Unit 9 AS 1), *Choosing a settlement location* (Unit 9 AS 2a and 2b)

Introduction

Outline the purpose of the lesson

Talk to the children about what they think a settlement consists of, and provide some basic information about early settlers (the Romans, the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings) and where they settled using the pictures and a video, if available. Explain that many of the settlements we use today are located at the sites of these early settlements. Tell the class that you are going to be looking at what life was like for these early settlers. Their work can be compiled into their own Anglo-Saxon Chronicle.

Activities

1

Listing basic needs

- Put the children into groups and ask them to imagine that they are a group of settlers moving inland and looking for somewhere to build a settlement. Ask each group to discuss what they think are the settlers' basic needs (e.g. *water supply, food and crops, safety*) and to compile an inventory of these using the **activity sheet:** *What would the early settlers in Britain need?* (Unit 9 AS 1).

Learning outcome: Children consider the needs of early settlers and the characteristics of the early settlements.

2

Choosing a settlement location

- Ask the children to consider what type of location they would look for, taking basic needs into account, and to site their settlement in a good location using the **activity sheet:** *Choosing a settlement location*, (Unit 9 AS 2a and 2b). Ask them to add any other relevant features to their maps.

Learning outcome: Children locate a settlement, taking account of basic needs and settlement characteristics.

Conclusion

Ask each group to make a short presentation of their basic needs and their suggested location for the settlement.

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ICT opportunities

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle can be compiled using a word processor or a desktop publishing package.

Differentiation

This is an introductory teacher-led session, with children sharing ideas in groups.

- The activity could be conducted either in mixed ability or similar ability groups.
- In-class support through questioning can be used to encourage all children to participate.

Assessment opportunities

Children can

- compile an accurate list of needs.
- The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle can be used to assess the whole unit

Teacher's notes

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Activity sheet 1

Unit 9

What would the early settlers in Britain need?

Lesson 1

Everybody has a basic need for food, drink, shelter and warmth.



What would they need to build their houses?

What sort of food might they eat?

What sort of land would they need?

What would they need to be able to cook food?

What about natural hazards?

What about defence against other people (possibly the Celts, or other settlers from different groups)?



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Activity sheet 2a

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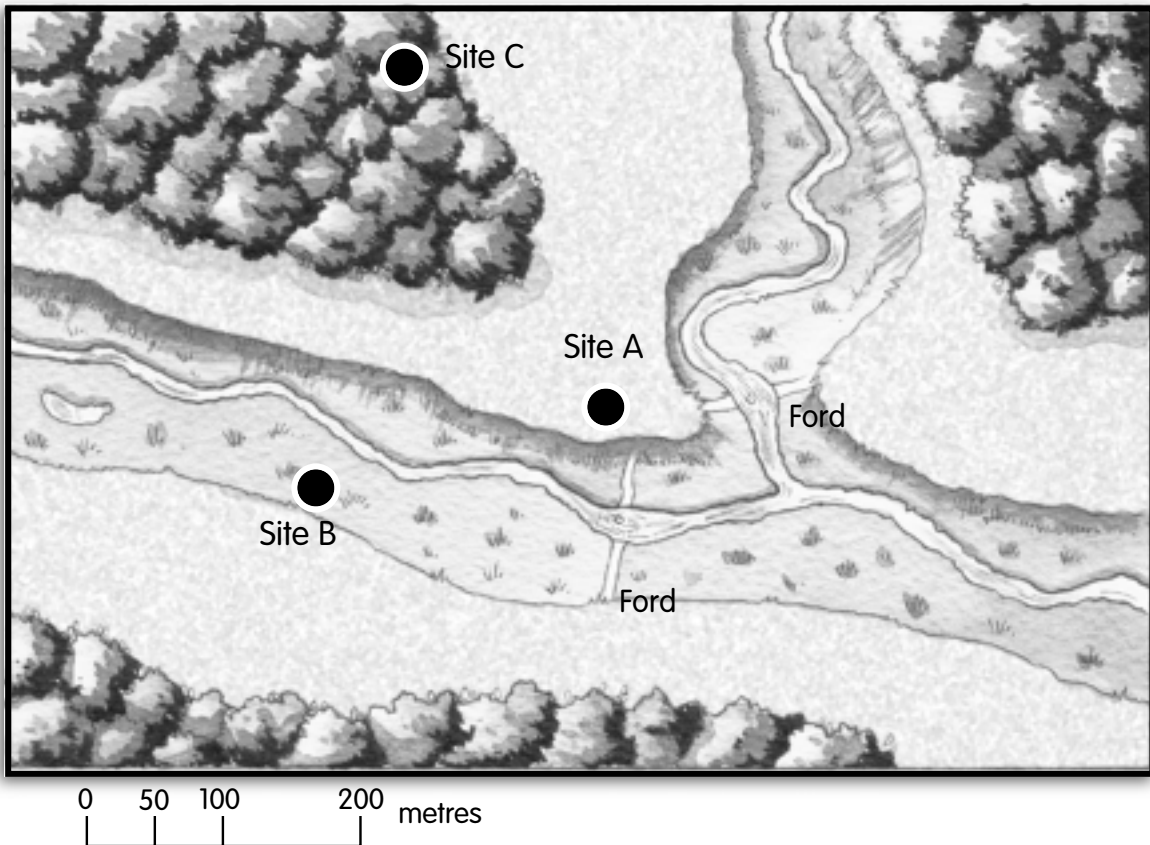
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Choosing a settlement location

Lesson 1



Imagine that you are looking for a place to settle. From activity sheet 1 you know what your basic needs are. From your long boat you have sent out scouts who have spied out the land and provided information about three possible village sites. You have to decide which one to build your village on.



MAP KEY		
Symbol	Land type	Resource
	Marshy flood plain	Water Fishing Reeds
	Flat, lightly-wooded river terrace, with good soil and above flood plain	Sticks and firewood Possible agricultural land
	Forested uplands	Timber for building Game

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Activity sheet 2b

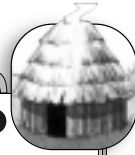
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Choosing a settlement location

Lesson 1

Study the map and complete the following:



1. Which site do you think could be more easily defended?
(Explain why you think this.)

2. Using the map scale, find out the distances from the proposed sites to various resources. (Use the straight edge of a piece of paper.)

Resource	Site A	Site B	Site C
Water			
Building timber			
Thatch (reeds)			
Land for farming			

3. Use all your information to explain which site your group would like to settle.
