

Walt: understand how the Anglo-Saxons have influenced Britain

Success Criteria

- I can match up Anglo-Saxon place names to their root meanings.

Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms

The British fought hard against the Anglo-Saxons but by about 600AD they had either been forced to escape or had been taken as slaves. Those who escaped retreated mainly to Wales and Cornwall which never came under Anglo-Saxon rule. The rest of Britain was divided into 7 kingdoms:

1. Northumbria
2. Essex
3. Wessex
4. Sussex
5. Mercia
6. Kent
7. East Anglia

But where did these place names come from?

What do they mean?



Kingdom Name Meanings

These county names mainly come from the names and geographical location of the Anglo-Saxons who first settled here.

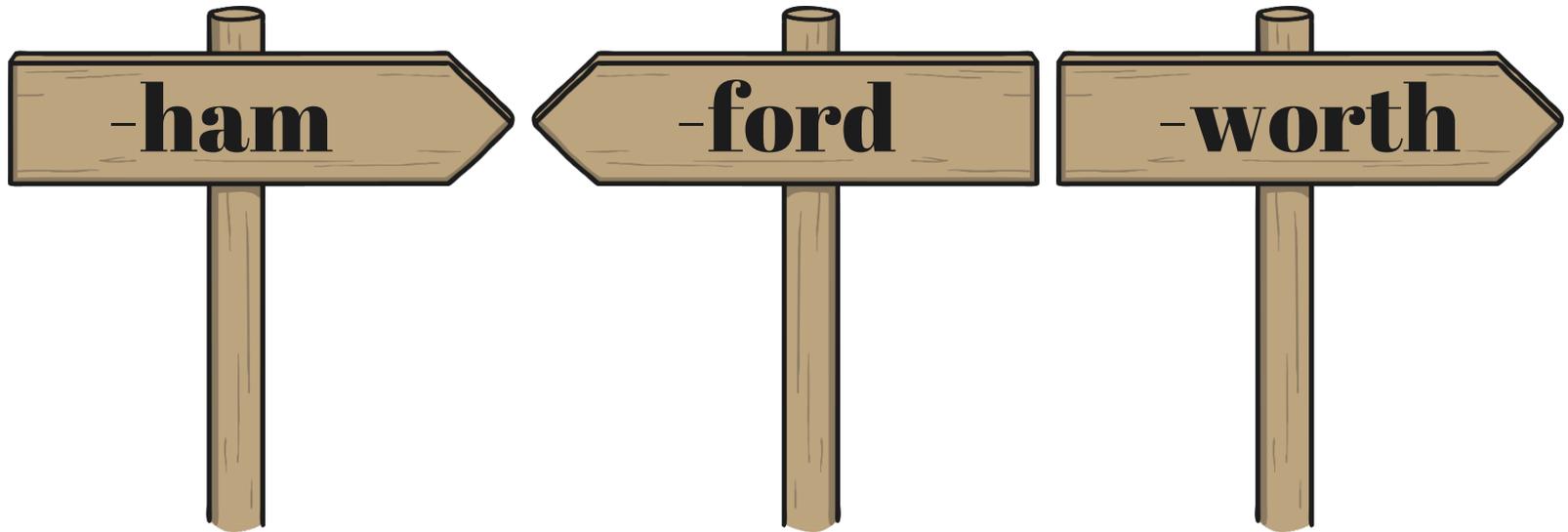
Place Name	Meaning
Northumbria	Land of people living north of the River Humber.
East Anglia	Comes from the fact that the Angles first settled here.
Sussex	South Saxons.
Wessex	West Saxons.
Essex	East Saxons.
Mercia	Border people.
Kent	The Jutes who settled here called themselves 'Kentings'.

Root Meanings

Many of the names of towns and villages in Britain also came from the Anglo-Saxons. Have you ever noticed that many place names share some similarities? For instance, how many place names can you think of which have the endings shown on the sign posts below?

Use a map or atlas to make a list for each type of ending.

What do these endings mean?



Anglo-Saxon Vocabulary

These county names mainly come from the names and geographical location of the Anglo-Saxons who first settled here.

burh - town	ley - clearing
bury – fortified place	mer/mere – pool or lake
croft – small enclosure	ney - island
field – open land	stow/stowe – meeting place/holy place
ford – river crossing	ton/tun - farmstead
ham/m - village	wic/wich - farm
ings - _____'s people	worth/worthy - enclosure

Task – Use the vocabulary list from the previous page for this task:

Practise and Stretch – Match the place name and meaning

Can you use the vocabulary list to help you work out the meanings of the place names?

Place Name	Meaning
Woking	Farm near a marsh
Oxford	Marshy field
Marston	Wocc's people
Morley	Ford for the oxen to cross through
Woolwich	Sheep farm

Challenge

Complete the above and then try to work out what the following place names mean:

Birmingham

Butterwick

Cromer