



On balance...



- Cut out the cards then decide which side of the balance scales each card should go.
- Some cards might sit in the middle if they are neither good nor bad.
- When you have finished count up the cards on each side of the balance scales (and below) to see what this suggests about the Saxon's impact on Britain. Are there more good things than bad or is it overwhelmingly bad?

Some Saxons were employed here to help defend Britain while the Romans were still here. Others were invited for the same reason after the Romans left.

The Saxon kings of Wessex eventually united all of England under one King, Athelstan, Alfred the Great's grandson who was the first King of all England.

Some Saxons attacked and killed or drove out Britons, in order to take over their lands.

Some Saxons killed priests and destroyed Christian churches that were built when the Romans were here.

The Saxons brought incredible skills with them, especially in things like metal working and jewellery making.

Many Saxons became important Saints for the work they did reviving and spreading Christianity in Britain.

Saxon women made woollen and linen cloth and did intricate embroidery. By the end of the Saxon period, Britain was famous for its woollen cloth and embroidery.

Many of England's cathedrals and churches were founded during Saxon times, including the most important cathedral in England, Canterbury.

The early Saxon incomers might not have wanted to leave their homelands but there was not enough land for them because of the rising sea level, growing population and other factors.

The Britons relied on Roman protection rather than learning to fight or build defences. They should have taken some responsibility for their country's safety earlier.