

The Anglo-Saxons



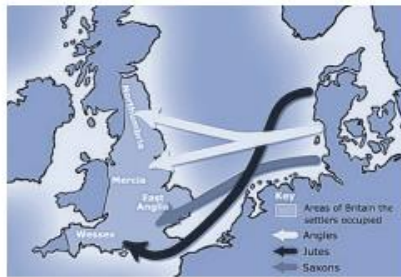
Quick summary



The **Anglo-Saxons** were the descendants of three different tribes who invaded Britain after the Roman army left Britain in 410 CE. The Angles and the Saxons came from what is now Northern Germany and the Jutes came from Denmark. The land they conquered was split into small kingdoms and the new invaders brought their own building methods, religious beliefs and language. During their rule, Christianity spread as monks from Rome came to England. Living in almost constant conflict, the Anglo-Saxons ruled large parts of England until 1066, the year that England was conquered by William, Duke of Normandy, after his victory at the Battle of Hastings.



Location



Conflict

After years of stability and peace under Roman rule, the collapse of the Roman Empire brought chaos and conflict to Britain. The Celtic tribes who had lived in harmony with the Romans found themselves under attack from northern tribes (the Picts and Scots). They asked the Anglo-Saxons to protect them from these fierce warriors. The Anglo-Saxons agreed, in return, for land that they could settle on. Gradually, the Anglo-Saxons took control and by the ninth century, ruled over four main kingdoms: Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia and Wessex. In 927 these four kingdoms were united under the rule of one king, King Athelstan and the Kingdom of England was created.



Main events

410: Roman army left Britain
597: St Augustine brought Christianity to Britain from Rome
601: King Ethelbert of Kent converted to Christianity
793: Monastery at Lindisfarne raided by Vikings
927: Kingdom of England created



Beliefs

Christianity first arrived in Britain during the time of the Romans but it was several hundred years before it became the main religion in England. Monks came from Rome to persuade the Anglo-Saxon kings to convert to Christianity.



Vocabulary

descendants: relatives from later generations
conquered: took control of by force
stability: being unlikely to change
collapse: complete end
chaos: confusion



Settlements



Beliefs



Culture and pastimes



Location



Main events



Food and farming



Travel and exploration



Conflict



Society



Artefacts

Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and conquest



Quick summary



The invasion of Jutes, Angles and Saxons following the departure of the Roman army, marked the beginning of centuries of significant **upheaval** in Britain. Large numbers of tribes fought for control of the land they had colonised and they all had to face the **consequences** of Viking invasion. What started as small raiding parties soon became an almost total conquest of the Anglo-Saxons by the Vikings. By the ninth century, when three of the four main kingdoms had fallen into the hands of the Vikings, only the kingdom of Wessex remained to resist them. In 878, Alfred the Great, the king of Wessex won a famous battle at Edington. The victory was the beginning of a fightback against the Vikings which ended with their defeat in 954 when their king, Eric Bloodaxe, was killed.



Location



Conflict

Early Anglo-Saxon Britain was made up of many different tribes, with their own leaders, chiefs and kings. These separate kingdoms were frequently in conflict with each other, and by the beginning of the seventh century, there were seven major Anglo-Saxon kingdoms including Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Wessex and Kent. Sometimes a king would try and lay claim to the title of Bretwalda (King of all Britain), and the overall control of Anglo-Saxon kingdoms often changed. Kent, for example, was an **independent** kingdom in the seventh century, but was ruled by Mercia in the eighth century and by the ninth century had become part of Wessex.



Main events

- 827:** Egbert of Wessex conquered Mercia
- 878:** Alfred the Great of Wessex fought back against the Vikings
- 927:** Athelstan united the kingdoms to create England
- 973:** Edgar received the **allegiance** of the Kings of Britain



Vocabulary

- upheaval:** big change
- consequences:** results or effects
- independent:** on its own
- allegiance:** support of a person or group



Settlements



Beliefs



Culture and pastimes



Location



Main events



Food and farming



Travel and exploration



Conflict



Society



Artefacts

Anglo-Saxon beliefs and burials



Quick summary



Anglo-Saxons were a medieval people who, for 600 years, controlled much of what is now England. From the departure of the Roman army in 410 to the defeat by William the Conqueror in 1066, the Anglo-Saxons built a lasting legacy of culture and beliefs that still influences us today. They played a significant role in the Christianisation of England by Saint Augustine of Canterbury, produced great works of art and literature like the epic poem *Beowulf* and were skilled craft and metalworkers. They are the source of some of England's most important archaeological discoveries, which have allowed historians to find out about life in the period also known as the Middle Ages.



Beliefs

The Anglo-Saxons played a significant part in England's journey to becoming a Christian country. Some Celtic people had adopted the religion under Roman rule, but the Anglo-Saxons arrived in England in the early fifth century with their own sets of pagan beliefs. In 597, Saint Augustine of Canterbury arrived from Rome (which had been Christian since the fourth century CE) and started to convert the Anglo-Saxon kings and their people.



Artefacts

One of the most important archaeological sites from the Anglo-Saxon era is the burial site at Sutton-Hoo in East Anglia. Sutton-Hoo is a traditional ship burial site, where a great king was buried. It was found to contain weapons, gold, jewellery and one of the most famous artefacts from the time, the Sutton-Hoo helmet. Lots of our knowledge about the Anglo-Saxons comes from the first-hand evidence found at this site, which has helped historians explain the complex nature of society at that time.



Culture and pastimes

The Anglo-Saxons wrote some of England's earliest works of literature, including the epic poem *Beowulf*. *Beowulf*, written in about 700, is an adventure story about monsters and dragons, good and evil, but it also explains the Anglo-Saxon heroic code. *Beowulf* gives examples of the importance of truth, bravery, honour, loyalty and duty, hospitality and perseverance. These values were all essential to Anglo-Saxon people and were a part of society and everyday life.



Vocabulary

medieval: the period of European history between 476 CE and 1500 CE
legacy: something left behind after death
Christianisation: conversion to Christianity
pagan: relating to religious beliefs other than those of the main world religions
literature: written work, especially with artistic value



Settlements



Beliefs



Culture and pastimes



Location



Main events



Food and farming



Travel and exploration



Conflict







Society



Artefacts

POP tasks: Milestone 2 – The Anglo-Saxons

Students will increase their understanding of the concepts in this topic by exploring:

	Basic	Advancing	Deep
 <p>Main events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List some of the reasons why the Anglo-Saxons came to England. • Where in the world were the Anglo-Saxons originally from? • Name some Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. • Describe what is meant by the word 'descendants'. • List the four main Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in the ninth century. • Label a timeline with events of this era. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain some of the reasons why the Anglo-Saxons came to Britain. • Give an overview of the changes in Britain from the Stone Age to Anglo-Saxon times. • Compare and contrast the Anglo-Saxon invasions of Britain with the Roman ones. • Suggest reasons why the Anglo-Saxons united their kingdoms into the Kingdom of England. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and then compare events in England at this time with those in other places around the world. Use a timeline and historical vocabulary to help you. • Summarise the significant changes in the social, ethnic, cultural and religious diversity of Britain during Anglo-Saxon times.
 <p>Conflict</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List the names of the tribes that settled in Britain after the Roman army left. • What was the name of the king who fought back against the Vikings in the ninth century? • What events brought Anglo-Saxon rule to an end? • Describe what is meant by the word 'Bretwalda'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain what happened after the Roman army left Britain. • Create a map to show where the main kingdoms of Anglo-Saxon times were. Use key dates to show how these kingdoms changed over time. • Explain how rule over England changed during Anglo-Saxon times. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate how many Anglo-Saxon kingdoms there were. What do you notice? • Investigate the battles of Edington and Stamford Bridge. What made them so significant?
 <p>Culture and pastimes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List the values in the Anglo-Saxon heroic code. • What was the name of the famous poem written in the year 700? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the main characteristics of Anglo-Saxon Britain. • Explain the Anglo-Saxon heroic code. • Why do you think it became important for people to try and follow this code? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • True or false? The epic poem <i>Beowulf</i> was a story told just for entertainment. Justify your answer.
 <p>Beliefs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who brought Christianity to England? • What does the burial site at Sutton-Hoo tell us about Anglo-Saxon beliefs? • Where had Saint Augustine of Canterbury travelled from? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare and contrast the beliefs of the Anglo-Saxons when they first arrived in Britain with their beliefs at the start of the tenth century. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the burial site at Sutton-Hoo. • True or false? The Anglo-Saxons brought Christianity to England.