

Who were the Anglo-Saxons and how do we know what was important to them?

FACTFILE



Vocabulary

- Anglo-Saxons** Name given to a variety of different tribes who invaded Britain from mainland Europe following the retreat of the Romans.
- Paganism** Multi-god religion practised in Northern Europe. Later replaced by Christianity.
- Woden** One-eyed king of the pagan gods, known for his wisdom. Wednesday is named after him.
- Frige** Queen of the pagan gods, protected the home, marriages and pregnant women. Friday is named after her.
- Runes** The alphabet that was used by the Anglo-Saxons to write.
- Sutton Hoo** Archaeological excavation of an Anglo-Saxon burial site in Suffolk.
- Beowulf** Greatish hero of an epic poem, which tells of how he defeated the monster Grendel.
- Taeftl** Popular battle board game played by the Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Celts.
- Shield-wall** Defensive formation used in battle, where warriors' shields overlap for protection.
- Hastings** Location of a battle where the invading Normans defeated King Harold Godwinson.
- Bayeux Tapestry** Embroidery showing the story of the Norman Conquest, and defeat of the Anglo-Saxons by William the Conqueror.

Supporting Materials

Anglo-Saxon House



Beowulf and Grendel



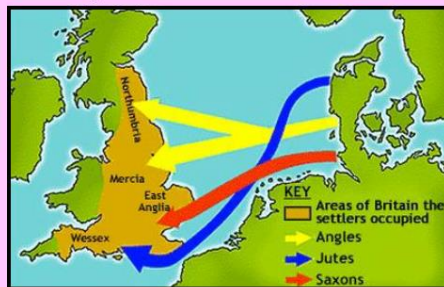
Harold Godwinson's Emblem



Re-enactors' Shield-wall



Angle, Saxon and Jute Invasion Routes



Taeftl Game



Sutton Hoo Replica Helmet



Hastings Location



Bayeux Tapestry









Runes



Invaders and Settlers – Anglo-Saxons

- Romans had left Britain & no-one to defend Britain. Scots (from Ireland) & Picts (over Hadrian's Wall) invaded.
- Lives of Anglo-Saxons changed after Ethelbert met Augustine
- Anglo-Saxons were Pagans □ They worshipped many Gods (e.g. Tiw, Woden, Thunor & Frigg)
- Converting to Christianity changed the lives of British people.
- The last Anglo-Saxon king was Harold II in 1066
- In 1939, archaeologists discovered an Anglo-Saxon ship burial at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk.

Famous Anglo-Saxons

 <p>Alfred the Great (849-899 AD)</p> <p>Alfred the Great was an Anglo-Saxon king of Wessex, who was famous for his victories against the Vikings. Alfred, a great military mind, made strategical changes to ensure that Wessex stood strong, where other kingdoms fell to the Vikings. He eventually established Danelaw to keep Vikings in the east. He was also deeply interested in learning – he translated texts from Latin to English, and began to develop law across the land.</p>	 <p>Edward the Elder (874/877-924 AD)</p> <p>Edward the Elder was the son of Alfred the Great, and was King of Wessex from 899 until his death in 924. He was involved in several battles throughout the time of his father's reign, and this continued throughout his own reign. His succession to the throne was threatened by his cousin Ethelwald, who sided with the Viking. The two battled numerous times, until Ethelwald was eventually killed in battle at Holme in Essex.</p>
 <p>Saint Bede the Venerable (673AD-735AD)</p> <p>Saint Bede was a monk at the monastery of St. Peter and St Paul in the Kingdom of Northumbria. Bede travelled to several monasteries as a young boy, being lucky to avoid the plague that killed most at Jarrow monastery. He was an author and scholar, and his most famous work: The Ecclesiastical History of the English people, led to him being named 'The Father of English History'. He was also a skilled linguist and translator.</p>	 <p>Egbert (Ecgherht) (771/775AD-839AD)</p> <p>Egbert (also spelt Ecgherht) was King of Wessex from 802AD until his death in 839AD. He was the first monarch to establish a stable and extensive rule over Anglo-Saxon England, and as a result is often referred to as the first King of England: after his victories in Mercia and Northumberland he was recognised by the title Bretwalda ('ruler of the British'). A year before he died, he defeated a combined force of the Danes and Cornish.</p>
 <p>Edward the Confessor (777BC-859AD)</p> <p>Edward the Confessor was the last but one of the Anglo-Saxon kings, known for his deep religious faith, which governed all aspects of his life. It is rumoured that Edward promised the throne to up to four different potential heirs before his death. This led to the eventual successor, Harold Godwinson, inheriting an unstable throne. Many believe this triggered the downfall of Anglo-Saxon rule.</p>	 <p>Harold Godwinson (1022AD-1066AD)</p> <p>Harold Godwinson, often called Harold II, was the last crowned Anglo-Saxon King of England. He had a short reign, lasting from 6th January 1066 until his famous death at hands of the Normans in the Battle of Hastings (on 14th October of the same year). Only weeks before, he had successfully repelled an attack from the Danish leader Harold Hardrada at Stamford Bridge.</p>



Anglo-Saxon Timeline

410 AD – The Romans leave Britain unguarded.	455 AD – The Kingdom of Kent is established (primarily by the Jutes).	477-495 AD – The Kingdoms of Wessex and Essex are formed.	547-586 AD – The Kingdoms of Northumberland, East Anglia, and Mercia are formed.	597 AD – St. Augustine arrives in Britain and introduces people to Christianity.	802 AD – Egbert becomes the first King of England.	871-899 AD – Alfred the Great rules.	1016-1035 AD – Canute the Great – the first Viking king – rules	1066 AD – At the Battle of Hastings, the Normans defeat the Anglo-Saxons.
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