

Year 5—Invaders and Settlers—Anglo Saxons—447—1066

Know England became a collection of kingdoms ruled by different kings.

The Anglo-Saxons were made up of three tribes that came over from Europe (Germany, Netherlands, Denmark) the Angles, Saxons and Jutes. The Angles and Saxons were the largest tribes. They successfully invaded around 450 AD.

Anglo Saxon Britain wasn't ruled by one person and the Anglo-Saxons were not united. They invaded as many different tribes and each took over different parts of Britain.

Each group of Anglo-Saxon settlers had a leader or chieftain. A strong and successful leader became 'cynning', the Anglo-Saxon word for King. Each king ruled a kingdom and led a small army.

From time to time, the strongest king would claim to be 'bretwalda', which meant ruler of all Britain.

By around AD600, after much fighting, there were five important Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. They were Northumbria, Mercia, Wessex, Kent and East Anglia. Sometimes they got along, sometimes they went to war.



Know that the Vikings and the Anglo-Saxons were often in conflict.

Vikings raided England

Anglo-Saxon England was first raided by the Vikings in 793 AD. The first raid was on the monastery at Lindisfarne.

This was the start of a long struggle between the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings for the control of Britain.

In 869 Vikings stormed York and killed two kings of Northumbria.

In 869 the Vikings killed King Edmund of East Anglia.

Anglo-Saxons take control

In 878 Alfred the Great stopped the Vikings taking over all of England in the Battle of Edington. He agreed to peace and some Vikings settled down to live in their own area of Eastern England called Danelaw.

Alfred the Great

- * Converted the Viking leader to Christianity.
- * Created a good army.
- * Built ships against Viking sea attacks, so beginning the English Navy.
- * Had books translated into English and promoted learning.
- * Founded monasteries.
- * Commissioned the writing of the Anglo Saxon Chronicles—a historical record of the Anglo-Saxons in Britain.



Alfred the Great

After Alfred the Great, English kings gradually recaptured more and more land from the Vikings.

Alfred's son Edward fought for control of the Danelaw and Alfred's grandson, Athelstan, pushed English power north as far as Scotland.

In 954 the Anglo-Saxons drove out Eric Bloodaxe, the last Viking king of York. When Eric was

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Know that the Anglo-Saxons impacted upon modern Britain i.e. days of the week derived from Anglo Saxons.

Days of the week Before the Anglo-Saxons became Christians they were pagans. This meant that they worshipped many gods. The gods gave their names to the days of the week that we use today—Tiw—god of war—became Tuesday, Woden—King of Anglo-Saxon Gods—became Wednesday, Thunor—god of thunder—became Thursday and Fidge—goddess of love—became Friday.

Christianity—In 596 the Pope in Rome sent chaplain Augustine to bring Christianity to ‘the pagans at the furthest edge of the world’. Augustine convinced the king (King Ethelbert of Kent) to convert to Christianity and slowly the rest of the country did so too.



Place names Originally places were named after the Chieftain (leader of the village), so people who lived in the village of Hastings were ‘Haesta’s people’. Haesta was the Chieftain. Later places were given names that described the landscape. The Anglo-Saxon word ‘port’ meant market town, for example Bridport. ‘Barrow’ was the Anglo-Saxon word for wood and Barrow in Furness is an example of an Anglo-Saxon place name.

Timeline

450 AD The Angles, Saxons and Jutes invaded England.

793 AD The first Viking raid on Lindisfarne.

869 AD Vikings killed two Anglo-Saxon kings of Northumberland.

878 AD Alfred the Great stopped the Vikings taking over all of England in the Battle of Edington.

954 AD The Viking Eric the Bloodaxe was killed in battle. Vikings agreed to be ruled by England’s king.

1066 AD King Edward died with no heir. King Harold II was chosen to be the King.

1066 AD William the Conqueror thought that he had the right to be king. He brought an army of Normans and defeated King Harold and his army at the Battle of Hastings. King Harold was killed and William the Conqueror became the King of England.

Know how the Anglo Saxons were defeated i.e. Battle of Hastings 1066 by William the Conqueror resulting in one king and the centralisation of English Government.

The Battle of Hastings

- The Anglo-Saxon King Edward died without an heir, King Harold II was chosen to rule England. William the Conqueror of Normandy and Harald Hardrada, the King of Norway didn’t like the new king and thought that they had the right to rule Britain.
- William brought his army of Normans to Britain to take on the new king. On 14th October 1066 the two armies fought at the Battle of Hastings. The Normans were victorious and King Harold was killed. The Bayeux Tapestry shows the events leading up to the Norman conquest of England.
- This became the end of Anglo-Saxon rule in Britain, and the beginning of Norman rule. England had a Norman king, King William I otherwise known as William the Conqueror who was the one king of England and who centralised the English government.



William the Conqueror

IMAGE OF BAYEUX TAPESTRY

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Vocabulary

Anglo-Saxon Chronicles - a chronological account of events in Anglo-Saxon and Norman England.

Bayeux Tapestry - Medieval embroidery depicting the Norman conquest of England in 1066.

Centralised government—the country is controlled by one authority—the King of England.

Chieftain—a leader of people

Christianity—a religion based in the belief of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Bible.

Heir—a person entitled to the property or rank of a person after their death.

Navy—military operations at sea.

Norman—the people who William the Conqueror brought from northern France to take control of England in 1066.

Pagan— a person who worships many gods or goddesses.

Tribes— a group of people with the same beliefs, customs and language, usually living in one area ruled by their leader.