



Anglo-Saxons & Scots Knowledge Organiser

The Romans leave Britain

By c. AD 410, the last of the Romans had left Britain. This made Britain vulnerable to invasion. The warriors that invaded became known as the first Anglo-Saxons. Most of Britain was divided into seven Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. The Picts and Scots were a constant threat without Roman support.



Who were the Anglo-Saxons?

The Anglo-Saxons were made up of three groups of people from **Germany, Denmark and The Netherlands**. The groups were named the **Angles, the Saxons, and the Jutes**. The Angles and the Saxon tribes were the largest of the three attacking tribes and so we often know them as Anglo-Saxons. They all shared the **same language** but were each ruled by different strong warriors.

Who was Alfred the Great?

One of the most famous Anglo-Saxon kings was **Alfred**, one of the only kings in British history to be called 'Great'. His father was king of Wessex, but by the end of Alfred's reign his coins referred to him as '**King of the English**'. He fought the Vikings and then made peace so that English and Vikings settled down to live together. He encouraged people to learn and he tried to govern fairly.

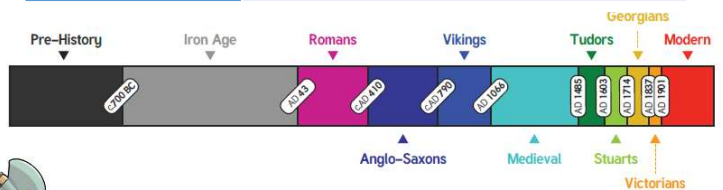


Viking Raids

The Vikings were famous for sailing huge distances to raid. This led the Vikings to Anglo-Saxon Britain. The Vikings also stole manuscripts and bibles and then sold them back to religious leaders who could not bear to see them damaged or sold. The Anglo-Saxon King Alfred the Great managed to force the Vikings out of the South of England but this was short-lived. By AD 878, the Vikings had settled permanently in England

Key vocabulary

Angles, Jutes and Saxons	The names of the people groups who came to settle in Britain after the Romans left, from Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands.
conquer	To conquer is to take control of or to overcome.
Danelaw	The part of England ruled by the Vikings (North Eastern England)
invasion	An unwelcome arrival of a large number of people who usually come with force and may cause harm.
Mercia	The largest and most powerful of the seven Anglo Saxon Kingdoms
Picts	The people who lived in the area we call now call northern Scotland.
Settler	People who migrate to a new place.
AD	Anno Domini - "in the year of our Lord". Used to show dates after the birth of Jesus Christ



Why did they invade?

They wanted to fight

Lots of Anglo-Saxons were warriors who enjoyed fighting. They thought the people who lived in Britain were weak. They went to invade because they thought they would be easy to beat without the Romans around.

They wanted new homes

Some Anglo-Saxons moved their whole families across the sea to live in Britain. They brought tools, weapons and farm animals with them. They built their own homes in areas that became villages.

They wanted to farm

Some Anglo-Saxons came to find land to farm. Where they were from, there was often floods which meant it was difficult to grow crops as they land was too wet.

They were invited

When the Romans left Britain, the Picts and Scots started attacking from the north. So they asked for help from some Anglo-Saxons to help them defend their country. But they didn't leave! They took over instead!