



Anglo-Saxons:

Did the Anglo-Saxons make England a better or worse place to live?

Key concepts:

Invaders, Settlements and Civilisations; Progress and Change; Religion and Beliefs, Historical Figures, Lifestyles and Conflict.

Timeline

360AD and Afterwards

Various Germanic peoples came to Britain as raiders. Saxon forts were built along the South Eastern coast of England and in France.



516AD

Gildas, a British monk, wrote 'The Ruin of Britain' which is the only surviving source for the collapse of Roman Britain and the arrival of the Anglo-Saxons that was written almost at the time. Some historians think his book may date from the 490s but his life is generally assumed to be 504-570AD.



616AD

Æthelberht, the first Christian English king, dies in Kent. He was one of the most powerful around 600AD but was losing dominance to Redwald of the East Angles. One of his lasting legacies was his law code, the first write in English.



633AD

Edwin, the king of Northumbria, died in battle. The new king requested that the bishop of Iona (an island in modern-day Scotland) sent over an Irish missionary who founded the monastery of Lindisfarne. Many missionaries who spread Christianity to the rest of England were trained here.



789AD

The first recorded Viking attack took place on Portland in Dorset, The reeve of Dorchester (a high-ranking official) went to greet them and was killed. This Viking raids increased from this point onwards.



410AD

Emperor Honorius responds to a request to help by telling the people of Britain to look to their own defences.



597AD

Augustine led a mission to England to convert the people to Christianity (from Pagan). It was probably a request from **Æthelberht** of Kent, whose wife was Christian. The King gave him land in Canterbury to build a church and **Æthelberht** became the first to become Christian.



627AD

Edwin of Northumbria becomes the first Christian king in the north of England. The last of Pope Gregory's missionaries (**Paulinus**) built a wooden church in York and baptised the king there.



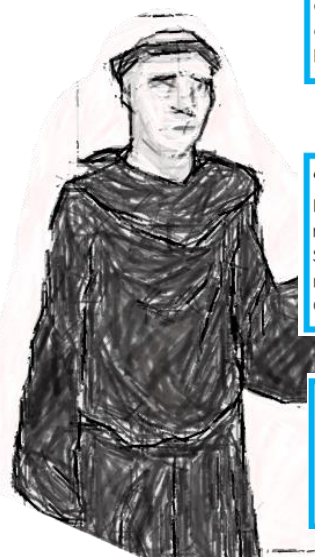
757—796AD

After a civil war, **Offa** comes to the throne of Mercia. He became the most powerful of the English Kings at the time. His legacy can be seen today in **Offa's Dyke**, which is an 80 mile earthwork that marked the border of his kingdom and the Welsh.



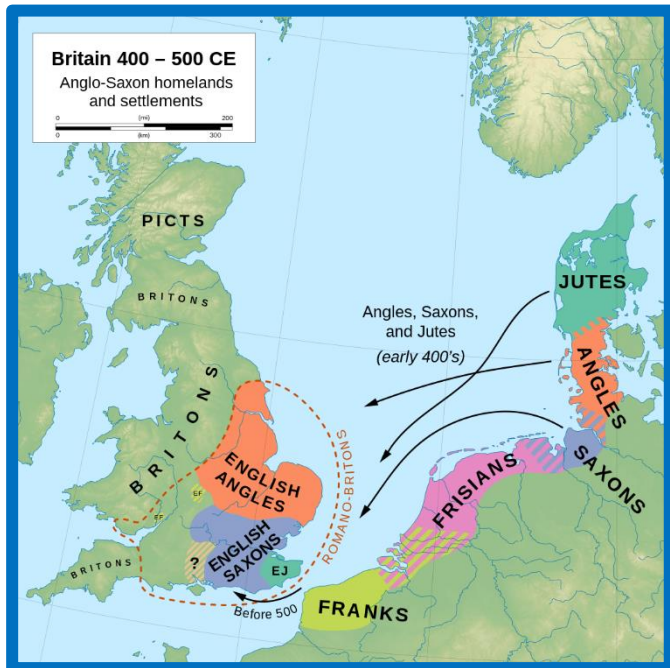
793AD

The Vikings attack the monastery of Lindisfarne in Northumbria. **Alcuin** of York, an Anglo-Saxon scholar, described it: 'Never before has such an atrocity been seen.' He said it was God's punishment on the kingdom for their sins.



Key Vocabulary

Jutes, Angles, Saxons and Frisians	Groups of people who left their homelands to invade 'Britannia' from the 5 th century.
Sutton Hoo	1,400 years ago, a king or great warrior of East Anglia was laid to rest in a 90ft ship, surrounded by his treasures. It's the richest burial ever found in northern Europe.
Invaders	Someone (an army or country) who enters by force to conquer.
Settlers	A person who arrives, especially from another country, in a new place in order to live there and use the land.
Pagans	The early Anglo-Saxons were pagans and worshiped many gods.
Gildas	A 6 th century monk whose written work has survived to help us uncover information about the Anglo-Saxons
Danegald	'Paying the Dane'. King Etherlred paid the Vikings in silver to prevent them invading but they kept invading anyway.
Danelaw	The name given to parts of the country ruled by the law of the Danes.
Wergild	Payment system to settle disputes (arguments) between criminal and victim/victim's family. If someone was killed there would be a wergild payment. The amount depended on how important they were.



Sutton Hoo

