

# ANGLO-SAXONS AND SCOTS



YEAR 4



name:

class:

## Vocabulary

Anglo-Saxons	The name given to the Angles, Saxons and Jutes, three tribes which came from North Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands.
Picts	Inhabitants of territories north of Hadrian's Wall.
(Celtic) Britons	Inhabitants of the territories we now call England and Wales.
Paganism	A religious practice where people believed in many gods: each Anglo-Saxon pagan god controlled an area of daily life.
Christianity	A religion that believes in one God, based on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. The leader of the Christian Church was the Pope, who lived in Rome.
Heptarchy	Refers to the seven kingdom of Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Essex, Sussex, Wessex and Kent.
Kingdom	A territory ruled by a king or queen. In Saxon times, kingdom mapped onto shires.
Shire	An area of local government now called a county.

## Important People

St. Augustine	Christian missionary considered to be responsible for lots of people converting to Christianity in Britain.
King Aethelbert	King of Kent who created the first Germanic law code in the early 7th Century.
King Offa	King of Mercia, and most of England in mid 8th Century.
King Arthur	Possibly mythical King of Wessex, famous for stopping Saxon expansion.
Bede	Monk in a Northumbrian monastery who wrote a history of the English church and people.

## Anglo-Saxons Kingdoms

The Jutes were based in Kent.  
 The Angles settled in East Anglia.  
 The Saxons settled in Essex (East Saxons), Sussex (South Saxons), Wessex (West Saxons) and Middlesex (Middle Saxons)

## Timeline of Events

410 CE	Last Romans leave Britain and the Picts begin to attack the Britons.
449-450 CE	Angles, Saxons and Jutes begin to settle.
516 CE	Battle of Mount Badon - between Britons and Anglo-Saxons.
570 CE	Heptarchy emerges in England.
597 CE	St. Augustine brings Christianity to England from Rome.
600 CE	First Law Code written in English in Aethelbert's kingdom in Kent.
613 CE	Northumbrian kings rule over most of England.
731 CE	Bede completes Ecclesiastical History of the English People.
757 CE	Otta becomes king of Mercia and arguably first king of all England.
789 CE	First recorded Viking attack (Dorset).
793 CE	Viking attack on Lindisfarne.

## Anglo-Saxon gods

Balder	God of immortality.
Eostre	Goddess of birth and spring.
Frigg	Goddess of love.
Hel	Goddess of death.
Loki	God of cunning.
Saxnot	God of the family.
Thunor	God of thunder.
Tiw	God of war.
Wade	God of the sea.
Woden	Chief god.

## Anglo-Saxon days of the week

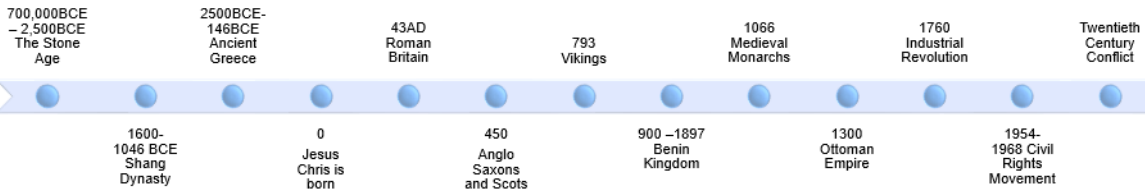
Mondaeg	Day of the Moon.
Tiwesdaeg	Tiw's day.
Wodensdaeg	Woden's day.
Dunresdaeg	Dunor/Thor's day.
Frigadaeg	Freyja's day (Woden's wife).
Saeternesdaeg	Saturn's day (Saturn was a Roman god).
Sunnandaeg	Day of the Sun.

Lesson Question	You will learn	Learning Review
<b>How do we know about the Anglo-Saxons?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who Gildas was.</li> <li>• Who Bede was.</li> <li>• The importance of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle.</li> </ul>	
<b>Who invaded Britain after the Romans left?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Scots invasion from Ireland.</li> <li>• The Picts invasions from the north.</li> <li>• The Angles, Saxons and Jutes.</li> </ul>	
<b>What was life like for Anglo-Saxons?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What Anglo-Saxons ate.</li> <li>• What Anglo-Saxon villages looked like.</li> <li>• The jobs Anglo-Saxons did.</li> <li>• How Anglo Saxon society was organised.</li> </ul>	
<b>What did the Anglo Saxons believe?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pagan beliefs of the Anglo-Saxons.</li> <li>• The importance of Norse mythology mythology.</li> <li>• How Augustine reintroduced Christianity to England.</li> </ul>	
<b>What was the heptarchy?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• About the seven kingdoms of England.</li> <li>• The Kings Offa and Egbert.</li> <li>• Why Offa built a dyke.</li> </ul>	
<b>Why did the Anglo-Saxons build forts?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who the Danes were.</li> <li>• Why Alfred was 'Great'.</li> <li>• What a Burh was, and why they were built.</li> </ul>	

# How do we know about the Anglo-Saxons and Scots?



## 1. When did the Anglo-Saxons and Scots invade and live in Britain? Who invaded Britain before? Who invaded after?



## 2. Write down everything that you already know about the Anglo-Saxons and Scots.

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Term	Definition
<b>Dark Ages</b>	The period of history during which there aren't many written records.
<b>Artefacts</b>	Objects made by people from the period being studied.
<b>Excavated</b>	Digging up artefacts that have been buried over time.
<b>Vvenerable</b>	Well respected, or trustworthy.
<b>Legend</b>	A story set in actual history, but which we don't have any evidence for.

### Where's the evidence?

We have lots of written evidence of what life was like during Roman Britain, because the Romans were so good at keeping written records. However, after the Romans left Britain in around 410 CE we don't have much writing from England. We know that lots of people invaded England and there was lots of fighting, but the facts aren't clear.



Figure 1: People re-enacting what Anglo-Saxons people might have looked like



Sometimes this period is called the Dark Ages because historians find it difficult to be really sure about events that took place. Although we don't much writing, we do have some archaeological evidence – artefacts and buildings that have been excavated. For example, in 2010, a huge collection of treasure from this time was discovered: the Staffordshire Hoard.



**4. What do you think school would be like if one day all of the teachers went home, and the children were left by themselves?**



### Gildas the Wise

One of the people who did write about life in England was called Gildas, who was a monk. He was born about a hundred years after the Romans left, in about 500 CE. He was sometimes known as Gildas Sapiens (or Gildas the Wise). He wrote a book called *De Excidio et Conquestu Britanniae* which means *On the Ruin and Conquest of Britain*. It was all about the Romans and Saxons arriving in Britain, and how the Celts living there did such a bad job at defending themselves. You need to remember that Gildas was a Christian monk, and he spends a whole section of the book accusing different Kings of lots of sins.

One of the events that Gildas wrote about was the Battle of Badon Hill which we will look at in lesson three. Some people think that King Arthur was the leader of the Britons at this time, but Gildas doesn't mention him. There are lots of legends like King Arthur from this time. Legends are stories set in actual history, but we don't have any proof they really happened.



**3. Which of these statements more accurately describes our understanding of Anglo-Saxon times?**

- Historians know lots about Anglo-Saxon Britain because there are so many books from the period.
- Historians aren't sure about life in Anglo-Saxon Britain because there isn't much written evidence.

Very few people would have been able to read and write at this time, and historians think that Britons were not very organised after the Romans left. What we do know is that this seems to have been a very bloody and violent time, with lots of fighting. They must have got so used to the Romans being in charge and running everything!

## The Venerable Bede

Although Gildas wrote a lot about life in Anglo-Saxon Britain, it is difficult to know how much of it was true. He was cross with the Kings for not living like proper Christians, and cross with the invaders for their extreme violence and greed.

A monk who tried to write more carefully about the period was Bede the Venerable. He is sometimes known as the 'Father of English History' because he wrote all about the church and the history of people in England. Bede also tried to make sure that all of the things that he was writing were actually true and really took place.

Bede wrote his book, an Ecclesiastical History of the English Peoples in about 730 CE, a few hundred years after Gildas was writing.

The Anglo-Saxon period and the Dark Ages are a fascinating time because so much seemed to be changing in Britain. But remember that it is difficult to be sure of exactly what was happening, and when.



**7. Imagine in a thousand years, future historians are trying to find out what happened in the twenty first century. What evidence could they look at?**



**5. Do you think that Bede's work is more or less reliable than Gildas?**

More reliable/Less reliable

## Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

The last main source of written evidence we have about life from the fourth to the tenth century is the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. King Alfred the Great had the good idea to write down a list of all of the events that had taken place over the last 500 years.



**6. What are the three main sources of written evidence we have about life in Anglo Saxon Britain?**

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## Why did Vortigen make a deal with the Anglo-Saxons?



### Retrieval Practice

1. 'Historians have a very good idea about what life in Anglo-Saxon England was like.'  
True / False
  
2. Name the three main written sources we have about life in Anglo-Saxon England:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Why did the Romans leave Britain:
  - a. They didn't like the weather.
  - b. Their empire was being attacked in Europe.
  - c. The people in Britain were rebelling against them all of the time.
  - d. It was too expensive to have such a big empire.
  
4. Name a battle that Gildas wrote about:  
The Battle of \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. Why are the Dark Ages called the Dark Ages?
  - a. We don't know much about what happened at this time
  - b. People didn't have electricity so their homes were dark.
  - c. There wasn't as much sunlight so the days were darker.
  - d. Everyone wore dark clothing.

Term	Definition
<b>Tribe</b>	A community of people who live and work together, with a common leader.
<b>Barbarian</b>	Tribes who fought against the Roman empire, mostly from Germany and northern Europe.
<b>Picts</b>	The people who lived in North Britain, which we now call Scotland.
<b>Scots</b>	A group of people who lived in Ireland, and ended up settling in what we now call Scotland.
<b>Rebellion</b>	When people fight against or resist the person or people in control, usually using violence.

### Britain in the fifth century

The Romans had a special word for anyone who wasn't a member of the Roman Empire; they called them barbarians (or strangers). In the fourth century, the Roman Empire was being attacked by barbarian tribes all over Europe: The Goths, the Vandals, the Huns, the Franks and the Saxons. Perhaps most famous of these is Attila the Hun, who is pictured below. Attila invaded Roman cities and defeated Roman armies all over Europe.



The barbarian attacks led to the end of the Roman Empire, which had become too big to defend itself. From 383 CE to 410 CE, the Roman leaders and armies left Britain forever.

There will still be people left in Britain, of course. The Celts, who had lived in Britain before the Romans arrived, became known as Romano-Britons or just 'Britons'. People living in what we now call Scotland were called the Picts at this time. In Ireland, there were people called the Scots (who would go on to invade and settle in what we call Scotland today).



1. Read the last paragraph again. Can you label the map of Great Britain below to show where the 'Scots', 'Picts' and 'Britons' lived?





## The invasions begin

With the Romans gone, the Britons were very vulnerable to attack. The Scots would cross the Irish sea and raid Wales and the west of England. The Picts would attack from the north and raid the northern English towns.



2. Add arrows to the map on the previous page to show these invasions.

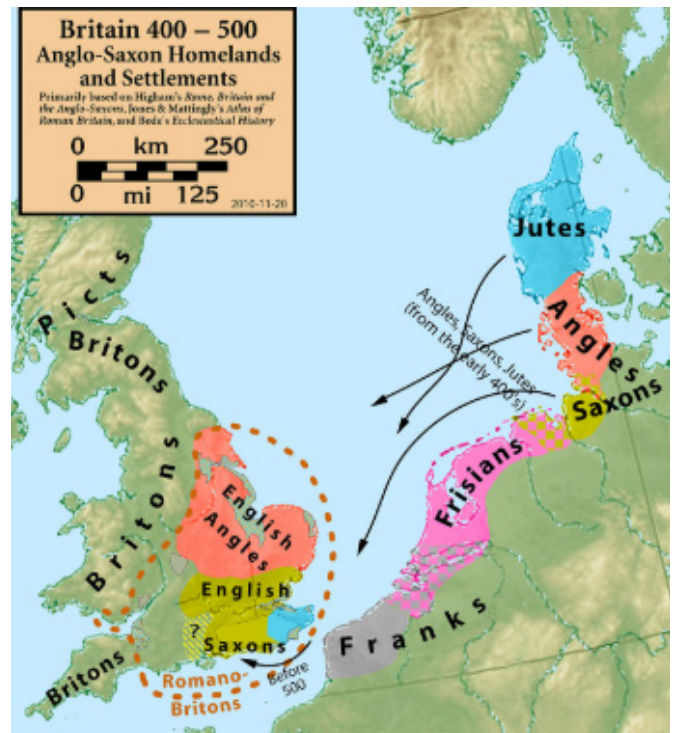
The Britons couldn't fight back effectively against the Scots or the Picts. They needed help. Just across the North Sea in Europe, there were three barbarian tribes who were very effective fighters: the Jutes, the Angles and the Saxons. Bede and Gildas both wrote that an English Chief called Vortigern (Vortigern actually means Great Chief) invited these tribes to England to help them fight against the Scots and Picts. In return the British paid tribes gold, and gave them land in the south and east of England. Many people in these tribes wanted to move to Britain anyway, because there was not much farmland where they lived.



3. Can you match these people with the areas that they came from?

Area	People
Jutland	Saxons
Angeln	Jutes
Saxony	Angles

The Saxons could see that the British were not good fighters, and used this to their advantage, taking more land and demanding more money from Vortigern. Two famous brothers called Hengist and Horsa led a Saxon army against the Brits. Gildas reported that this was a very violent time, with entire villages being burnt down by the Saxons. The Angles and the Saxons (or Anglo-Saxons) took complete control of the east of England, whilst the Britons stayed in the west.



4. Why did the British welcome the invaders from Jutland, Angeln and Saxony?

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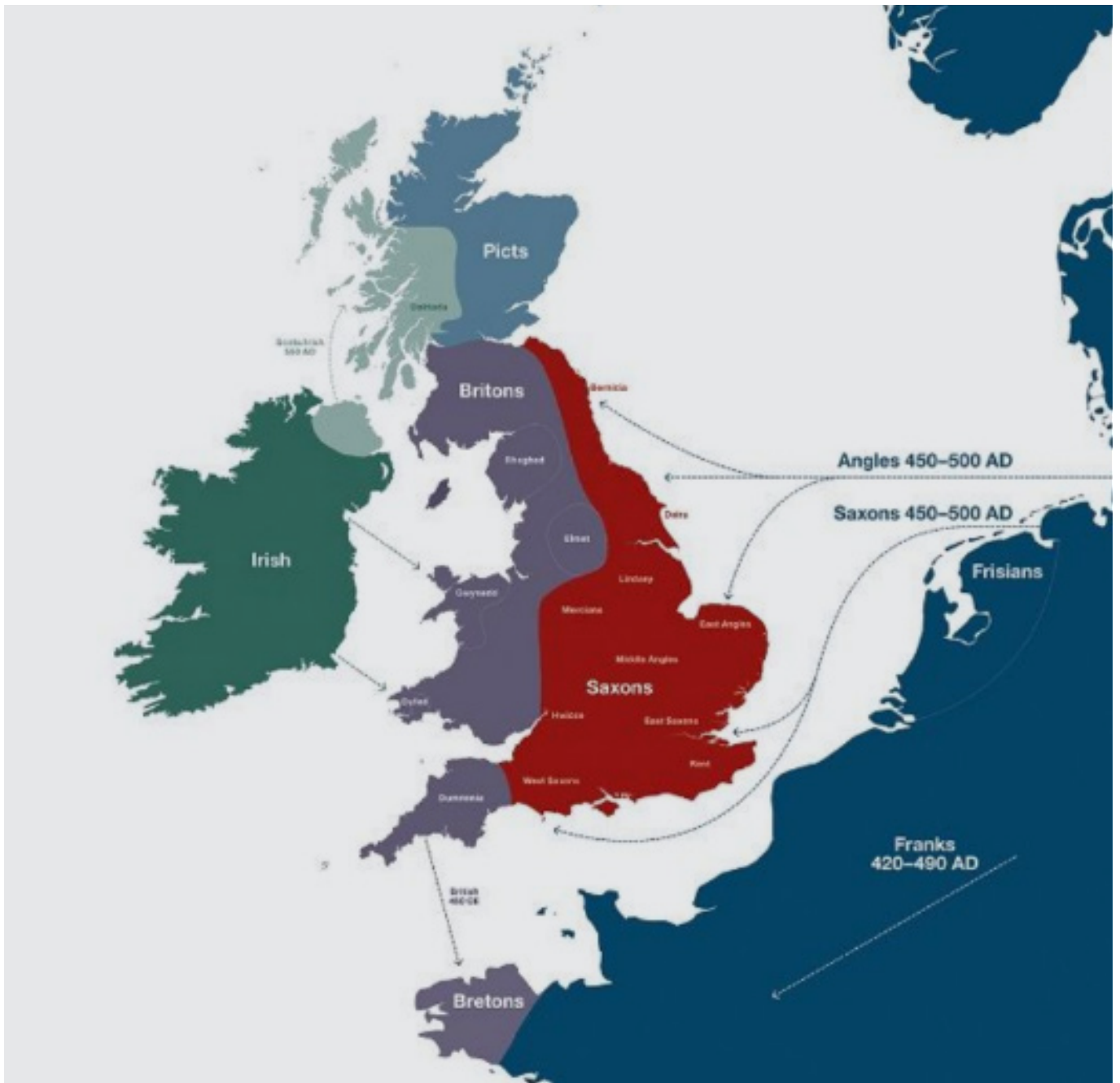
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One British chief did try to fight back against the Saxons after they started taking so much land. Ambrosius Aurelianus, whose parents had been killed by the Saxon invaders, led a group of British in a rebellion. Legends say that Aurelianus was the nephew of King Arthur, but there are no records in the three main written texts that Arthur actually existed. At the Battle of Badon Hill, the Saxon army was defeated. However, it was only one victory, and over the next few centuries the Anglo-Saxons took more and more land.

This is why the east of the country today is called East Anglia, and our whole country is called England, (Angle-land). Other towns and cities today still have Anglo-Saxon names.

So, by about 600 CE our country looked very different. The Scots had settled in Pictland, alongside the Picts. The country wouldn't be known as Scotland until 843. The Anglo-Saxons were mixing and gaining more land, changing the culture of Britain.

Have a look at the map below. It shows what Britain looked like in about 600 CE. Can you find where you live? Would you be a Briton, an Angle, a Saxon or a Jute?





5. "Making a deal with the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes in 449 CE was a good idea."

Do you agree, or disagree?

Give reasons for your opinion. Use the following vocabulary as you speak in the debate:

Vortigen      Horsa      Hengist      Scots      farmland  
raids      Roman      Picts      invasion      barbarian

## What was life like for Anglo-Saxons?



### Retrieval Practice

1. What were the names of the two Saxon brothers who legends say invaded England?  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
2. Gildas was known as Glildas Sapiens. What word most closely matches with the meaning of Sapiens:
  - a. Religious
  - b. Angry
  - c. Priest
  - d. Wise
3. What was the name of the monk who wrote the Ecclesiastical History of the English Peoples?
4. Give two reasons that the Anglo-Saxons came to England:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
5. What did Romans call foreigners who weren't in their empire?
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_



Term	Definition
<b>Crops</b>	Plants that you grow which you can eat, like vegetables and salad.
<b>Thatched</b>	When straw or dried vegetation is layered to make a roof. Keeps the rain out and the heat in.
<b>Mead</b>	A sweet alcoholic drink, made from honey.
<b>Ceorl</b>	A poor common person, or peasant, Usually a farmer or a craftsman.
<b>Thane</b>	A village chief, leader of the local tribe.
<b>Cyning</b>	The Anglo-Saxon word for King. The war-chief and leader of many tribes.

### A simple life

Whilst living in England, the Romans had established large towns and cities with buildings made out of stone and brick. They built large bathhouses and villas. The Anglo-Saxons chose not to live in these cities. Instead, they moved out into the countryside and built much smaller houses with lots of land to farm. These villages would be centred around a larger house called the hall, where the chief would live. Most people at this time, then, were farmers or 'ceorls': they grew crops and kept animals.



The houses were very basic. The walls were made out of wood, with a thatched roof. They had just one, big room, with an open fire on a big stone in the middle. Everyone would sleep in the main room together. If it got cold outside, (or if there was a fox about) they would bring the farm animals into the house too!

The Chiefs house was called a hall, and was much bigger. On special occasions like festivals and celebrations, all of the villagers would go to the chief's Hall and have a feast together. At a feast villagers might enjoy some roasted meat and some mead (a kind of sweet beer made out of honey).

Normally, though, most Anglo-Saxon wouldn't have been able to eat meat regularly. It was too expensive to kill an animal just for its meat, and hunting wild animals was too difficult and time-consuming. Instead, they would eat things that were easy to grow like cereals, bread, wheat, fruit and vegetables.



*An example of pottage, made in modern times.*



1. Why do you think that the Anglo-Saxons wouldn't want to live in the Roman buildings?

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A common meal was pottage. Here is how you make it:

1. Boil a big pot of water.
2. Throw in some grains, like oats, wheat and barley.
3. Chop whatever vegetables you have and add those to the mix.
4. If you have any meat or fish, put that in as well.
5. Add some egg yolks if you have some.
6. Drop in any stale bread.
7. Sprinkle in any herbs you find.
8. Boil for two to three hours, until everything is completely soft and the whole mixture is thickened.



**2. What food that we eat today does this remind you of?**

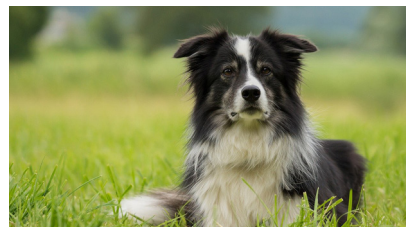
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**3. Most animals on farms aren't only used for their meat.  
Talk to your partner about the other things that these animals give us:**



## Life on the farm

Life on an Anglo-Saxon farm was very tough indeed. As soon as you were big enough, about ten years old, you had to start working. If your parents were very rich then you might have had a teacher. Schools didn't really exist though, so most people didn't learn to read or write. The jobs were different for men and women.

Job	Men?	Women?
Ploughed the fields		
Weaved baskets		
Chopped down trees		
Fight in the army		
Knitted clothes		
Made pots out of clay		
Made weapons out of metal		
Made wooden bowls, wheels and furniture		
Making cheese by churning milk		
Cooked meals and made bread		
Went hunting and fishing		

Not everyone in Anglo-Saxon England lived like this. The village chief or 'thane' would be in charge of the whole village. The only person more important than them was the 'cyning' or King of a large area. Anglo-Saxon England eventually broke into seven kingdoms. There were also slaves, who had no real rights.

## What did Anglo-Saxons believe?



## Retrieval Practice

1. Anglo Saxon diet had lots of roasted meat for most people:  
True / False
  
2. Where did the Scots originally come from?
  - a. Germany
  - b. Ireland
  - c. Denmark
  - d. Scotland
  
3. What is mead?
  
4. Which famous 'barbarian' defeated many Roman armies?  
\_\_\_\_\_ the Hun.
  
5. What would a typical job be for a woman in Anglo-Saxon England?



Term	Definition
<b>Paganism</b>	Any religion which is more local, often worshipping Gods that represent nature.
<b>Polytheism</b>	The belief in many Gods and Goddesses.
<b>Winter Solstice</b>	The day of the year with the least sunlight, usually around 21 December.
<b>Festival</b>	A special event where everyone celebrates something together.
<b>Blodmonath</b>	'Blood Month', which took place in November. Pagan Anglo-Saxons would sacrifice of animals to the Gods and spirits.
<b>Convert</b>	To change someone's mind, especially about religion.

### Many Gods

Towards the end of Roman rule in Britain, Christianity had started to be introduced. However, most people in Britain at this time were pagans, which describes more local religions in which people worship Gods and spirits associated with nature. Some people became Christians, but most remained pagan. Worshipping lots of Gods is called polytheism. (Poly = many; theism = belief in God or gods.)

The Anglo-Saxons were pagans too, but they brought their own Gods and Goddess, those of Norse mythology. The main God was Woden, who is similar to the Viking God Odin. Lots of the Anglo-Saxon Gods and Viking Gods were similar. Each God represented a different part of nature, or something that was important to people living at that time.

There were many Gods worshipped by the Anglo-Saxons. Their main ones we know about were:

Woden	Chief God (of Wisdom)
Freyja/Frigg	Goddess of Love
Balder	God of Immortality
Eostre	Goddess of Birth
Frigg	Goddess of Love
Hel	Goddess of Death
Loki	God of Cunning
Saxnot	God of the Family
Thunor	God of Thunder
Tiw	God of War
Wade	God of the Sea
Wayland	God of Metalworking

There may have been other Gods that we don't know about. Some of our days of the week came to be named after these Gods.



### 1. Can you match the days of the week to the Gods or aspects of nature?

Monday	Woden's Day
Tuesday	Sun's Day
Wednesday	Saturn's Day (Roman)
Thursday	Tiw's Day
Friday	Freyja's Day
Saturday	Moon Day
Sunday	Thunor's Day

### Pagan festivals and rituals

We don't know a lot about how the Anglo-Saxon pagans worshipped their Gods, because the Christian monks didn't want to write about other religions. However, Bede does write a little bit about Pagan festivals, and we also have some archaeological evidence. For example, whole animal carcasses have been found, which showed that pagans may have sacrificed animals to the Gods and then buried them.

This probably happened in November, which Bede says was Blodmonath, or Blood Month. Since winter was setting in, this was a good time to sacrifice animals like oxen (large cows) which were getting old. It would give the people lots of meat ready for the winter.

Another special day was the winter solstice, which is the shortest day of the year. This usually happens around December 21, and so the 25th December became the first day of the new year for the Anglo-Saxons. They would have a big feast, drink ale and mead, and burn a yule log on the fire. Many people believe that early Christians chose 25th December to be Christmas day because people were already celebrating on this day anyway.

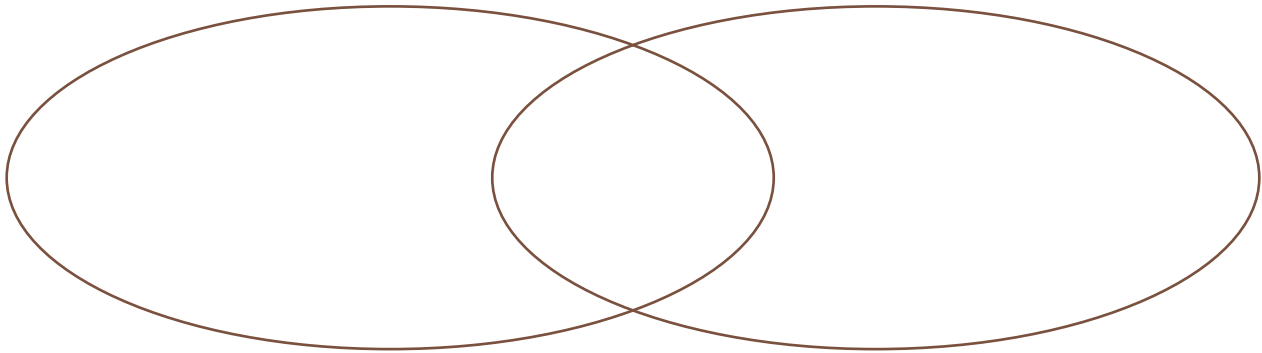


## 2. What is similar and different about paganism and Christianity?

Only Paganism

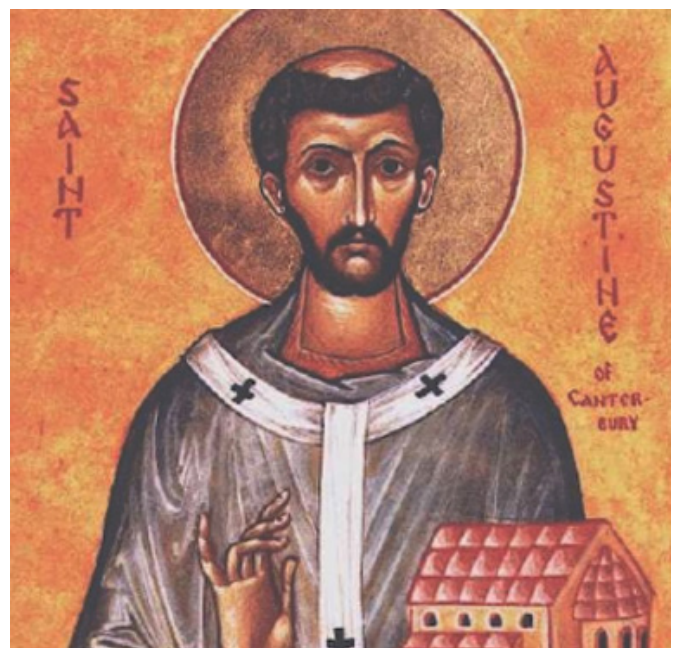
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Only Christianity



### The return of Christianity

In 596 CE the leader of the Roman Catholic church, Pope Gregory, met a group of Anglo-Saxon slaves in Rome. When he discovered that they were pagans, he decided to send some monks on a special mission to England to convert everyone to Christianity. The monk he chose to lead the mission was called Augustine, and he arrived in Britain the next year. As soon as he arrived, he found the King of Kent, Aethelbert. The King was a pagan, but Augustine thought that if he could convert him (change his religion) to Christianity, others would do the same.



The King had already married a princess called Bertha who was one of the few people in England at the time who believed in Christianity. Augustine and Bertha teamed up to convert Aethelbert to Christianity, and they succeeded. Augustine baptised Aethelbert, who commanded all of his people to change their religion to Christianity too.

Augustine was allowed to build a monastery, which is a large building where monks can all live. The monastery was in Canterbury, and so Augustine became known as Augustine of Canterbury. To the north and west of England, people were also being converted by the Scots, the Irish and the Welsh. More and more monasteries and churches were built, and by 700 CE most people living in Britain were Christians.



### 3. Unscramble these sentences about the beliefs of the Anglo Saxons

in England, led by Augustine                      a group of monks arrived                      in 596,

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which means they believed in many Gods                      Anglo-Saxons were polytheistic

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after Norse Gods                      of the week are named                      many of our days

---

his wife Bertha                      to convert to                      King Aethelbert  
and Augustine                      Christianity by                      was convinced

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An important pagan festival                      around the winter solstice  
took place on 25th September,

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## Retrieval Practice

1. Who was the most important God for pagan Anglo-Saxons?
  - a. Woden
  - b. Wodin
  - c. Odin
  - d. Thor
  
2. Which King did Bertha and Augustine convert to Christianity?  
King \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. 'Life on an Anglo-Saxon farm was very easy for the people living there.'  
True / False
  
4. Who was more important in Anglo-Saxon society:
  - a. A ceorl
  - b. A thane
  - c. A slave
  
5. When did Vortigern invite the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes to Britain?
  - a. 410 CE
  - b. 449 CE
  - c. 485 CE
  - d. 878 CE



Term	Definition
<b>Heptarchy</b>	The name given for the seven kingdoms that were in Britain during Anglo-Saxon times.
<b>Bretwalda</b>	A king who claimed to be in charge of all of England.
<b>Kingdom</b>	An area of England ruled over by one King, usually a great warrior.
<b>Dyke</b>	A long barrier or wall made out of earth, by digging and piling it up.
<b>Archaeologist</b>	A person who digs up artefacts and buildings from the past and studies them.
<b>Excavated</b>	The process of digging up objects and buildings from the past.

Aethelbert, who we met in the last lesson, was the King of an area called Kent. It is in the southwest of England, and is still know as Kent today. But this wasn't the only Kingdom. By about 600 England had split into seven clear kingdoms. We call the seven kingdoms the heptarchy. Each had their own King, who made laws and protected his people. They would invade each others lands, and sometimes one King would claim to be the leader of all of Britain, or the bretwalda. It would be difficulut to keep control of the whole country, because of the large area.



### 1. Can you divide the blank map of the UK into the seven kingdoms?



### 2. The names of the different kingdoms give us some clues about who lived there. Can you match them?

Wessex	East Saxons
Mercia	East Angles
Northumbria	South Saxons
East Anglia	People of the Marches
Essex	West Saxons
Kent	North Angles
Sussex	The Canti (Saxons)

The biggest and most powerful kingdoms in the heptarchy were Northumbria and Mercia, but as time went on Wessex became more and more powerful until it ruled over all of England. We don't know about all of the Kings who ruled the seven kingdoms, but there are stories about some of them who are written about in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. There were also some coins made which show us who was King.



### King Offa of Mercia

One of the Kings we know most about is King Offa, who ruled over the powerful Mercia Kingdom from 757 CE to 796 CE. A King would have to have been a mighty warrior during this time, and Offa won many battles against neighbouring Kingdoms. He invaded East Anglia and Kent and controlled most of Wessex as well. He built a huge dyke along the western border of Mercia to make it difficult for the Welsh to invade his Kingdom. A dyke is a barrier or kind of wall made by piling earth up. You can still see bits of the dyke today!

**3. Can you draw a thick red line on your map below to show where Offa's dyke would have been?**

### King Egbert of Wessex

Mercia didn't stay as the most powerful Kingdom forever. In 802 a new king in Wessex fought back against the Mercians. King Egbert invaded nearby Kingdoms of Sussex, Essex and Kent. With his bigger army, he invaded Mercia and in 829 defeated the King of Mercia, who was called Wiglaf. Egbert couldn't keep control of all of these kingdoms, but it weakened Mercia and made Wessex the new most powerful Kingdom.

**4. Complete these sentences.**

In the middle of the \_\_\_\_\_ century, the most powerful kingdom in England was \_\_\_\_\_.

To stop the Welsh invading, \_\_\_\_\_ built a huge \_\_\_\_\_ along the border. Then, a new king of Wessex, called \_\_\_\_\_, invaded Mercia and weakened the kingdom forever.

Power was always changing hands in Anglo-Saxon times!

## Weapons and Warfare

We know quite a lot about the weapons used by Anglo-Saxons in their battles, because they were made out of metal and have been excavated by archaeologists. We have found swords, spears, axes, helmets, parts of shields and chainmail. Some weapons have even been found which are made out of gold!



**5. Have a look at these artefacts and discuss with your partner what battles might have been like during Anglo-Saxon times.**



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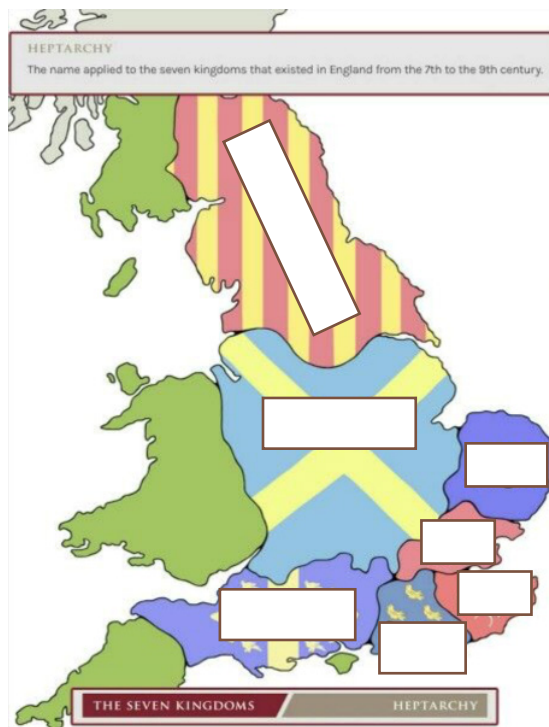
## Why did the Anglo-Saxons build burhs?



### Retrieval Practice

- Name three jobs that an Anglo-Saxon farmer may have had to do:
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
- What was the name of the monk who brought Christianity back to England in 596.
- Why did Offa build his dyke?
  - To help with farming.
  - To make it difficult for other Anglo-Saxon kings to invade.
  - To make it difficult for the Welsh to invade.
  - To make it difficult for the Scots to invade.
- Label this map of Britain with the names of the seven kingdoms:

- Mercia
- Northumbria
- East Anglia
- Wessex
- Kent
- Sussex
- Essex



Term	Definition
<b>Raid</b>	To quickly attack and steal things from a village or town.
<b>Vikings</b>	Invaders from Scandinavian countries who raided other places.
<b>Bretwalda</b>	A king who claimed to rule over all the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and people.
<b>Fertile</b>	Land which has lots of nutrients, so is easy to grow crops in.
<b>Danes</b>	Another name for the Viking invaders.
<b>Danelaw</b>	The area of land given to the Vikings in the east of England

### Invaders from the East

The Anglo-Saxons had invaded England from across the sea. From the 8th century, new invaders were sailing to England to raid the villages near the coast. These new invaders were from Scandinavian countries like Norway, Sweden and Denmark. These new invaders were called Vikings.

These invaders meant that the Anglo-Saxons sometimes had to work together to fight them off. Although Egbert was the first king to unite the kingdoms and rule over all of England, perhaps the most famous and successful bretwalda was Alfred the Great.

Alfred had many achievements. He was said to be very well educated, as well as being a great military leader. He made the economy much better for Anglo-Saxons, meaning there was more money available for people. He also built more schools across the kingdom so that more people could learn to read and write.



1. Look at the statue of Alfred the Great. What clues can you see about the sort of leader he was?



Clue

This tells me that



2. If you were leader of all the Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms, what decisions would you make?

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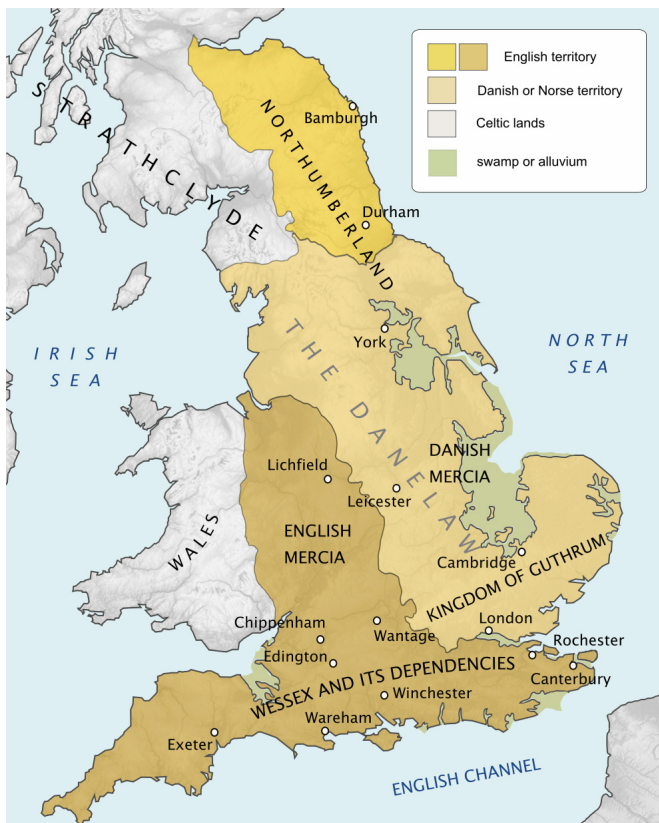


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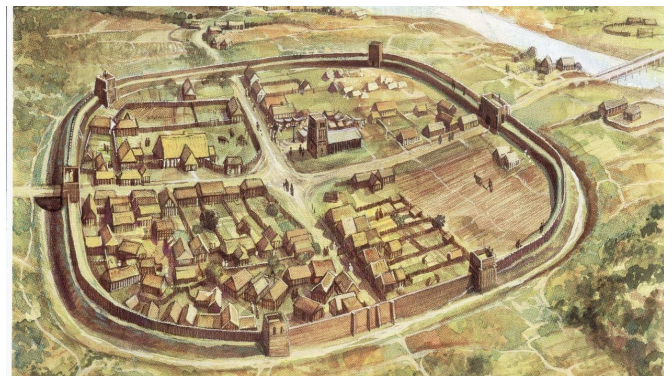
## Building Burhs

Alfred did lots of different things to try and keep the Vikings out. The Anglo-Saxons called the invaders the Danes because many of them came from Denmark. He made deals with them, giving them money and land. The Vikings wanted the treasure that the Anglo-Saxons had been making, and some of them wanted to stay and live on the land which was very fertile. The area of land that Alfred gave to the Danes was in the east of England, and became known as Danelaw.



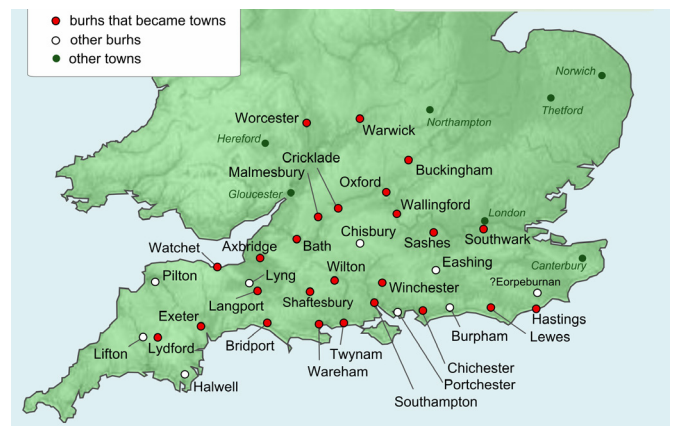
When he needed to fight, Alfred would organise armies. He defeated the Danes in many battles, including the Battle of Ashdown and the Battle of Edrington. But it was easier to try and negotiate a peace than keep fighting battles, so Alfred continued to make deals with the Danes.

One of the most important things that Alfred did was build Burhs. These were huge forts with high walls around them. They were very difficult to attack and could be easily defended by the people inside. There were already some forts that the Romans had left behind, but Alfred gave orders to build many more in the places that the Vikings were attacking.



A drawing of what a typical Anglo-Saxon Burh might have looked like.

These Burhs grew in size and would include the houses of the villagers. They became the first towns in Anglo-Saxon England.



This map shows where some of the Burhs were built across England. Many became large towns and cities that still exist today.

**3. Have you heard of any of the towns or cities that grew from these Burhs?**



**4. Complete these sentences. You can look back at the information on the previous page to help you:**

The Vikings invaded England but \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Vikings invaded England because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Vikings invaded England so \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**5. Use this box to design your own Burh. Think about what you would need inside your Burh, and what the Anglo-Saxons would have available to them at the time. Label your burh clearly.**

Blank space for drawing and labeling a Burh.





**REACH OUT**

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