

Anglo-Saxon Invasion

General Knowledge

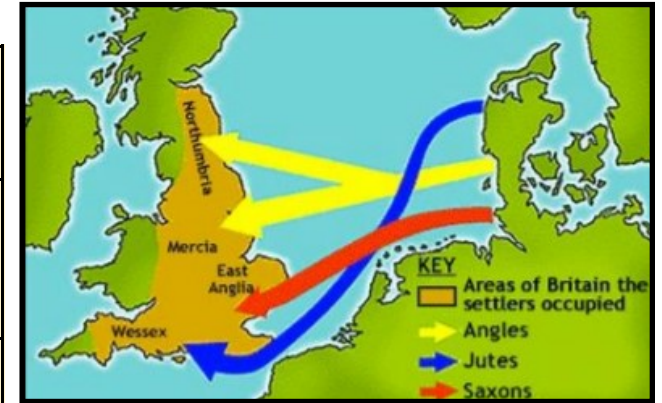
Who were the Anglo-Saxons? - The Angle, Saxon and Jute are known as the Angles and Saxons. The Angles and the Saxon tribes were the largest of three attacking tribes and so we often know them as Anglo-Saxons. They shared the same language but were ruled by different strong warriors. They were warrior-farmers and came from north-western Europe. They began to invade Britain while the Romans were still in control. They loved fighting and were very fierce.

Religion- In Roman Britain many people had been Christians. But the early Anglo-Saxons were not Christians, they were pagans. After the Romans left, Christianity continued in places where Anglo-Saxons did not settle, like Wales and the west. However, when the Anglo-Saxons came to Britain, they brought their own gods and beliefs with them. Over time their beliefs changed, and many Anglo-Saxons were converted to Christianity.

Kingdoms- England did not exist at the time of the invasion of the Angles, Saxons and Jutes. Once settled, the Anglo-Saxons established multiple kingdoms, each with their own customs and laws. These were called Wessex, Mercia, East Anglia, Northumbria and Kent. Athelstan united the kingdoms and formed England in 927 CE.

Legacy- The Anglo-Saxons had a huge influence on England. Our legal system, religion, days of the week and place names (amongst others) were all established during this time. Most importantly, England was formed.

 <p>Alfred the Great</p>	Born in the village of Wan-nating. Protected the kingdom against Vikings. He was the first English King.
 <p>Athelstan</p>	Athelstan was an Anglo-Saxon king, who is often thought to be the Anglo-Saxon king from 924 to 927 and the King of England from 927 to 939.
 <p>St. Bede</p>	Born in Monkton, Durham, his most famous work was 'Historica Ecclesiastica Gentic Anglorum'. He is known as the 'greatest of all the Anglo-Saxon Scholars'
 <p>Offa</p>	One of the most powerful Kings in early Anglo-Saxon England. He ruled Mercia from 757 to 796. He seized power after the death of his cousin, King Aethelbald.
 <p>Edward the Confessor</p>	The son of Ethelred II. He became King in 1042 and much of his reign was peaceful and prosperous. He passed away in 1066.
 <p>St Augustine</p>	The first archbishop of Canterbury who was sent from Rome to England to bring Christianity to the Anglo-Saxons.



	Key Vocabulary
Angles, Jutes and Saxons	The tribes that formed the Anglo-Saxons.
Christian	Someone who believes in Jesus.
Invader	An army or country that uses force to take over another country.
Kingdom	A place ruled by a king or queen.
Mercia	An Anglo-Saxon Kingdom.
Northumbria	An Anglo-Saxon Kingdom.
Pagan	Someone who believes in multiple gods.
Settler	Someone who creates a home somewhere else.
Thane	An Anglo-Saxon ruler.
Wessex	An Anglo-Saxon ruler.

Recommended Reads

- 1) Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo.
- 2) Anglo-Saxons and Vikings (Usborne History of Britain).

Recommended Websites

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxsbcdm
www.english-heritage.org.uk/members-area/kids/anglo-saxon-england/

410 CE	449 CE	597 CE	871 CE	924 CE	939 CE	1042 CE	1066 CE
The Romans leave England and English shores are unprotected.	Anglo-Saxons arrive in Britain.	St Augustine brings Christianity to Britain from Rome and becomes Archbishop of Canterbury	Alfred the Great becomes king of Wessex.	Athelstan becomes king, starting his goal of uniting England.	The Vikings invade and control the north of England.	Edward the Confessor becomes King.	King Harold is killed in the Battle of Hastings.