

Key Vocabulary:



Anglo-Saxon A name given to the tribes of Angles, Jutes and Saxons who settled in Britain after 449 AD.



invasion Entering a country or region with force.



migration Movement from one country or region to another.



monarchy A government ruled by a king or a queen.



myth A traditional story which aims to explain why things are the way they are, usually containing supernatural beings or events.



pagan Someone who believes in more than one god.



pillage To rob a place using violence.



raid A short or sudden attack.



runes Words written in ancient letters by the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings.



Scandinavia A region of Europe including the countries of Denmark, Norway and Sweden.



settle To have a permanent home and steady way of life.



trade Buying and selling goods and services.

Traders and Raiders

During the Roman rule of Britain, there were constant threats from invaders. After the Romans left in 410 AD, three tribes called the Angles, Saxons and Jutes invaded the country and settled, forcing the Britons to flee to Wales, Scotland and Cornwall. By AD 600 the Anglo-Saxons had divided the land into 7 kingdoms, each with their own Anglo-Saxon king.



A map of the 7 kingdoms of Anglo-Saxon "England" meaning "Land of the Angles".

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



A map of Britain in 886 AD after Alfred "The Great" of Wessex made peace with the Viking invaders, ruling together. The Vikings now ruled over a large area over the East of England called "Danelaw" which had York or "Jorvik" as its capital.

Early medieval history of Britain:



410 AD
The Romans leave Britain.



449 AD
First Anglo-Saxons arrive in Britain.



516 AD
Mythical British King is said to have defeated the Anglo-Saxons.



597 AD
St Augustine brings Christianity to Britain from Rome.



600 AD
7 Anglo-Saxon kingdoms have been established.



793 AD
Vikings raid the monastery at Lindisfarne.



871 AD
Alfred "The Great" becomes king of Wessex.



925 AD
Athelstan is the first accepted king of all England.



1066 AD
End of Anglo-Saxon rule.