

Anglo-Saxons and Vikings — Knowledge Organiser

Key Vocabulary

migration	Movement from one place to another with the intention of settling in a new location
Kingdom	A country or region that is ruled by a king or queen
settlement	A place where people have come to live and have built homes
invasion	The act of a foreign army entering another country by force
raid	A rapid surprise attack
longship	A long, narrow warship, powered by both oar and sail with many rowers
Danegeld	A land tax levied in Anglo-Saxon England during the reign of King Ethelred to raise funds for protection against Danish invaders
Monastery	A building or buildings occupied by a community of monks living under religious vows
Conquer	Overcome and take control of (a place or people) by military force.

Invasion

Anglo-Saxons migrated from Scandinavia and Germany in search of new farmland, due to poor conditions (such as flooding) in their homelands.

Britain was left without Roman protection when they left; three tribes, known as the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes, fought the Britons.

The **Vikings** travelled in longships from the modern Scandinavian countries of Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

They raided places such as monasteries and pillaged expensive items to trade. They were looking for valuable goods like gold and jewels, imported foods and other useful materials.

They also wanted to claim land and take over much of Britain.

Anglo-Saxon kings tried to resist the Vikings and fought hard to keep control of their land.

King Alfred the Great was the first to defeat the Vikings in battle.

The Seven Kingdoms of Anglo-Saxon Britain

Chronology (Timeline)

- AD449** – Anglo-Saxon invaders arrive in Britain
 - AD600s** – The Saxons gradually take over the land we call England
 - AD793** – The Vikings attack Lindisfarne from Norway (raid)
 - AD866** – The Vikings capture the city of York
 - AD871** – Alfred the Great becomes King of Wessex and drives the invading Vikings from the South
 - AD878** – The Vikings settle in England permanently and force King Alfred into hiding
 - AD886** – Alfred gives the Vikings the East (Danelaw)
 - AD900** – The Vikings establish rule over Scotland
 - AD924** – Alfred the Great's grandson, Athelstan, becomes King of Wessex
 - AD927** – Athelstan conquers the last Viking kingdom and becomes King of England
 - AD939** – Athelstan dies and the Vikings, led by Olaf Guthfrithsson, invade England, taking control of the North
 - AD954** – The last Viking King of York, Eric Blodaxe, is forced out of York
 - AD1013** – The Danes conquer England; Æthelred flees to Normandy.
 - AD1016** – The Danes under Cnut (Canute) rule England.
 - AD1042** – Edward the Confessor becomes King
 - AD1066** – Harold, earl of Wessex, becomes King of England
- Harold is defeated by William the Conqueror and his Norman army

Empire

By the year AD600, there were seven separate kingdoms in England, each ruled by an independent king.

By AD878 there was just one kingdom left (Wessex) as the others had been overrun by the Vikings.

King Alfred the Great was the best known Anglo-Saxon king.

By 1016, England was a unified country, under the control of a single king.
The Viking and Anglo-Saxon rule ended after the Battle of Hastings in 1066, when William the Conqueror (of Normandy) became King of England.

Achievements & Community

- Early Anglo-Saxons and Vikings were pagans; they worshipped many gods and goddesses.
- The arrival of Saint Augustine in 597 converted most of the country to Christianity.
- The Anglo-Saxon language gave rise to the English we speak today.
- Vikings had state-of-the-art shipbuilding technology, which allowed them to travel greater distances than anyone before them.
- As the Vikings interacted with their English neighbours through farming and trading activities, the two languages (Old Norse and Old English) mixed as well (place names such as Derby come from the suffix -by).

