

Vikings & Anglo-Saxons

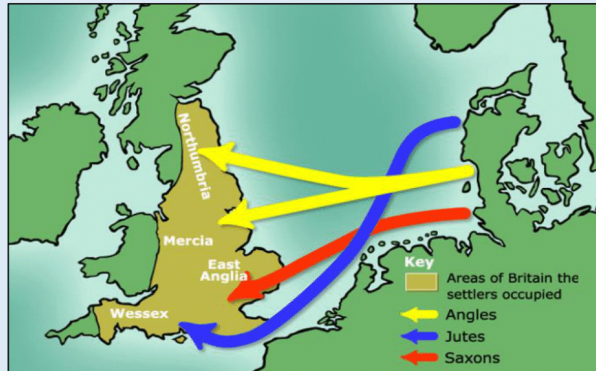
Year 6 - Kinsale Junior



Diagram – Anglo-Saxon Routes

Map of Anglo-Saxon Routes

After the Romans left Britain, it became more open to invasion. The Anglo-Saxons were made up of people who rowed across the North Sea from an area that is now northern Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. These people were from three tribes: the Angles, the Saxons, and the Jutes. The Angles settled in northern England and East Anglia. The Saxons settled in large sections of southern England. The Jutes, meanwhile, adopted areas of Hampshire, Kent, and the Isle of Wight.



Famous Anglo-Saxons



Alfred the Great (849-899 AD)

Alfred the Great was an Anglo-Saxon king of Wessex, who was famous for his victories against the Vikings. Alfred, a great military mind, made strategic changes to ensure that Wessex stood strong, where other kingdoms fell to the Vikings. He eventually established Danelaw to keep Vikings in the east. He was also deeply interested in learning – he translated texts from Latin to English, and began to develop law across the land.



Saint Bede the Venerable (673AD-735AD)

Saint Bede was a monk at the monastery of St. Peter and St Paul in the Kingdom of Northumbria. Bede travelled to several monasteries as a young boy, being lucky to avoid the plague that killed most at Jarrow monastery. He was an author and scholar, and his most famous work: The Ecclesiastical History of the English people, led to him being named 'The Father of English History'. He was also a skilled linguist and translator.



Edward the Confessor (777BC-859AD)

Edward the Confessor was the last but one of the Anglo-Saxon kings, known for his deep religious faith, which governed all aspects of his life. It is rumoured that Edward promised the throne to up to four different potential heirs before his death. This led to the eventual successor, Harold Godwinson, inheriting an unstable throne. Many believe this triggered the downfall of Anglo-Saxon rule.

Edward the Elder (874/877-924 AD)

Edward the Elder was the son of Alfred the Great, and was King of Wessex from 899 until his death in 924. He was involved in several battles throughout the time of his father's reign, and this continued throughout his own reign. His succession to the throne was threatened by his cousin Ethelwald, who sided with the Viking. The two battled numerous times, until Ethelwald was eventually killed in battle at Holme in Essex.



Egbert (Ecgherht) (771/775AD-839AD)

Egbert (also spelt Ecgherht) was King of Wessex from 802AD until his death in 839AD. He was the first monarch to establish a stable and extensive rule over Anglo-Saxon England, and as a result is often referred to as the first King of England: after his victories in Mercia and Northumberland he was recognised by the title Bretwalda ('ruler of the British'). A year before he died, he defeated a combined force of the Danes and Cornish.



Harold Godwinson (1022AD-1066AD)

Harold Godwinson, often called Harold II, was the last crowned Anglo-Saxon King of England. He had a short reign, lasting from 6th January 1066 until his famous death at hands of the Normans in the Battle of Hastings (on 14th October, 1066). Only weeks before, he had successfully repelled an attack from the Danish leader Harold Hardrada at Stamford Bridge.



Life in the Viking Times

Scandinavia		The Vikings descended from all over Scandinavia (now Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Denmark). The terrain of Scandinavia was not great for farming, so Vikings left their homeland in search of more fertile lands.	Where? Northern Europe	Key Fact: The Vikings were also known by the name 'Norsemen.'
Viking Longships		The Vikings had advanced sailing and navigational skills for the time. They were aided by their longboats, which were long, narrow wooden vessels. These could be sailed in both deep and shallow water.	When? The longship first appeared in the 9 th Century	Key Fact: The methods used in building longships are still used today!
Norse Runes		The Vikings spoke in a language called Norse, and had their own alphabet system (futhork) made up of symbols called Runes. The original futhork had 24 letters, although this was later expanded. Runes were regarded as sacred.	How? Vikings would scribe on wood, bone and stone.	Key Fact: The word 'futhork' comes from the first 6 letters of the Viking alphabet.
Danelaw		King Alfred the Great defeated the Vikings in 878 AD, and had them sign a treaty, which governed that the Vikings stick to their own land in north and east England – this section of land became known as the Danelaw.	Where? North and East England	Key Fact: The Vikings did not give up on ruling all of England, and eventually did!
Jorvik		The Vikings invaded York and renamed it Jorvik. Here, a settlement was formed, which reigned prosperously for over 100 years, until Eric Bloodaxe was expelled in 954 AD.	Where? York, UK	Key Fact: Many streets in York end in 'gate', the Viking word for 'street.'
Valhalla and Odin		Vikings believed that when they died in battle, half of them would go to an enormous, majestic hall called Valhalla. This is where the king of the gods lived, named Odin.	What? Vikings believed the other half	Key Fact: The other half were believed to descend to goddess Freyja's field: Folkvangr.
Battle of Stamford Bridge		This battle took place in the village of Stamford Bridge, in the east riding of Yorkshire. King Harold of England defeated a Viking army led by Harald Hardrada	When? 25/09/1066 – widely considered the end of the Viking era	Key Fact: Harold's army was defeated only 3 weeks later at the Battle of Hastings.
Viking Homes		Vikings lived in long rectangular houses made with upright timbers. They used woven sticks, covered with mud, to keep out the rain. They were often one room, with a central fire.	How? Smoke escaped through a hole in the roof.	Key Fact: Animals and people often lived at different ends of the same building.
Weapons		According to custom, Vikings were permitted (and encouraged) to carry a weapon at all times. Weapons included bow and arrows, spears, knives, swords, axes and slings.	How? Bow and arrows were made from yew, ash, or elm.	Key Fact: Grand, well-finished weapons were seen as a sign of wealth and prestige amongst Vikings.
Life for Children		In old Norse society, formal schooling for children did not exist. Boys worked on farms from a young age, and girls contributed to housework. Many died young.	What? Viking children played with wooden toys.	Key Fact: Some Vikings who could not support their babies left them out to die.
Food		Vikings ate whatever food they could grow, hunt, or make, for example leeks, nuts, berries, bread, porridge, spinach, deer, boar, trout, chicken, eggs, sheep and pigs.	How? Vikings grew grains to make a number of foods.	Key Fact: Vikings also ate honey from bees.
Clothes		The Vikings were skillful weavers, and women and children often made clothes for their families. They could also use natural dyes from plants to give colour. Men wore tunics and trousers, whilst women wore long dresses.	How? Most clothes were made from wool and animal skins	Key Fact: Vikings fastened their clothes with belts and brooches.

Viking Timeline

787-789 AD – The Vikings begin their attacks on Britain.

840 AD – Viking settlers establish the city of Dublin in Ireland.

866 AD – Danish Vikings establish a kingdom in York, England.

878-886 AD – King Alfred divides England under the Danelaw Act, granting Vikings north & east England.

900-911 AD – The Vikings raid the Mediterranean, and found Normandy in France.

981 AD – Eric the Red discovers Greenland.

1000 AD – Leif Erikson explores the coast of North America

1013 AD – The Danes conquer England. From 1028, Knut rules.

1066 AD – The Vikings, led by Harold Hardrada, are defeated at Stamford Bridge.

Laws and Justice

Many laws we have in Britain today are not that different from the laws of Anglo-Saxon Britain. However, the punishments were considerably different.

There were no prisons to send criminals to, so punishments were designed to be a huge deterrent to those thinking of breaking the law and they were often pretty brutal!

The different Anglo-Saxon kings and kingdoms had their own laws and punishments. Such punishments included:

- Stoning
- Hanging
- Drowning
- Cutting body parts off
- Whipping
- Exile



Influential People of the Anglo-Saxon Era



King Alfred The Great is credited with being the first Anglo-Saxon king to defeat the Vikings

Athelstan is regarded as the first king of all Britain and he is remembered as a great leader.

Edward the Confessor died in AD 1066 and **Harold Godwinson** became king. He was later defeated by Danish king William the conqueror, marking the end of Anglo-Saxon rule.



In AD 1042, **Edward the Confessor**, became king of England after he was invited to return to Britain from exile in Normandy. He ruled until his death in AD 1066.

He was known as 'The Confessor' because he led a very religious life and he was a kind and thoughtful king. Edward built Westminster Abbey.

Edward married Edith Godwinson in AD 1045. Edward and Edith did not have any children. He was succeeded by Harold Godwinson, although many contested his rule.



Glossary

Anglo-Saxons - After the Romans left Britain in 410AD, Angles and Saxons came across the North Sea to settle in Britain.

Angles - Tribes from modern day Denmark.

Saxons - Tribes from modern day Germany and the Netherlands.

Vikings - Also from Scandinavia, the Vikings later invaded Anglo-Saxon Britain in 787AD. They carried out many raids and battles.

Invasion - when a foreign army enters a country by force.

Raid - Surprise attacks, often carried out from longboats. Raiders would often pillage the settlement using violence.

Christianity - A religion based on the teachings of Jesus. Practiced by the Romans, it was later adopted by many Anglo-Saxons.

Pagan - A religion worshipin many gods and goddesses. The original Anglo-Saxon and Viking settlers often worshiped many gods based around nature, such as Odin, Frigg and Thor.

The pound - The currency used by Anglo-Saxons, it was made up of 240 silver pennies which weighted 1 pound of silver.

Wergild - A payment system used in Anglo-Saxon times to settle disputes. Wergild would be paid if somebody was killed and the amount depended on how important the victim was.