

Important Topic Vocabulary

archaeology The study of the past by examining the remains of buildings, tools and other objects.

artefacts An object that is made by a human being, especially one that is of cultural interest.

forts To take control or possession of a place or people by force.

invade To enter a country by force with an army

kingdom A country or region that is ruled by a king or queen.

monastery A building where people lived and worshiped, devoting their time and life to God.

Pagans People who didn't believe there was just one god, but a number of gods and goddesses.

raiders People who enter a place illegally, and often violently, to steal.

Scandinavia Name given to countries in Northern Europe including Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

settlement A place or region where people come to live

sources Something that provides information about the past.

Vikings A member of a Scandinavian tribe who invaded and settled in Britain.

wergild People who hurt or killed others had to pay a fine to the victim's family.

What you should already know:

The Roman Empire ruled Britain from AD 43 to 410. Even after they were gone, the Romans left their legacy all over the country. They gave us new towns, plants, animals, a new religion and ways of reading and counting.

End of the Roman rule in Britain

In about AD410, the Roman Emperor Honorius sent a goodbye letter to the people of Britain. He wrote, *"fight bravely and defend your lives...you are on your own now"*. The city of Rome was under attack and the empire was falling apart, so the Romans had to leave to take care of matters back home.

However, after the Romans had left, there were still people left in Britain. The people, who lived in Britain before the Romans arrived, became known as '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).

Wonderful Websites

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxsbdm/articles/z23br82>

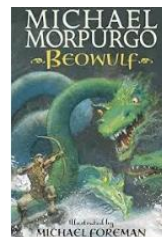
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxsbdm/articles/zqrc9j6>

Brilliant Books

Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo.



The Anglo-Saxon Boy by Tony Bradman.



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.



Who were the Anglo-Saxons and where did they come from?

They were a mix of tribes from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. The three biggest were the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes. The land they settled in was 'Angle-land', or England.

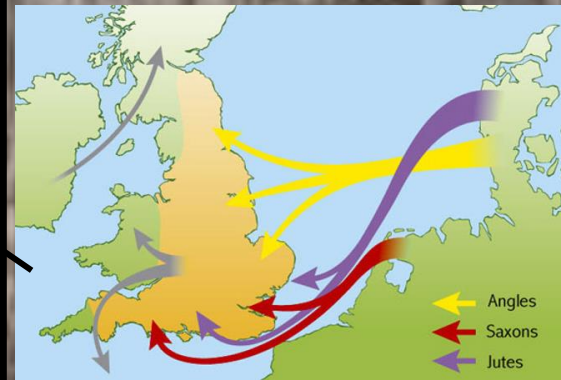
Why did the Anglo-Saxons come to Britain?

Britain needed help. King Vortigern invited some Anglo-Saxons to Britain to help defeat the Picts and Scots. However, when they did, they decided to invade and settle in Britain themselves.

Some Anglo-Saxons were warriors who enjoyed fighting. They thought the Britons were weak and easy to beat without the Romans around.

Many Anglo-Saxons came peacefully, to find land to farm. Their homelands in Scandinavia often flooded so it was tough to grow enough food back there. Whole families set sail across the sea to live in Britain. They brought tools, weapons and farm animals with them and built villages with new homes.

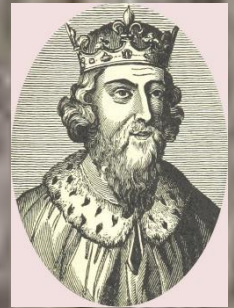
Most Anglo-Saxons kept clear of Roman towns, wanting to build their own houses, leading to most Roman buildings becoming ruins. This meant that Britain went backwards as the sewage systems, roads and buildings were left to rot.



Anglo-Saxon kingdoms:

By around AD600, after much fighting, England was not one country. Anglo-Saxon kings ruled lots of small kingdoms across the land. There were five important Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms. Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Essex, Kent, Sussex and Wessex. Sometimes they got along, sometimes they went to war.

Some of those Kingdoms have formed our counties today. For example, Kent and Northumberland.



Alfred the Great
Anglo-Saxon

AD 449

Some Anglo-Saxons were invited to Britain.

AD 516

Battle of Mount Badon

AD 600

England was successfully split up into different kingdoms.

AD 789

First Viking raid recorded in Dorset.

AD 410

Roman army left Britain.

AD 450

First Anglo-Saxons invade Britain.

AD 597

Anglo-Saxons converted to Christianity.

AD 633

The first monasteries were built.

AD 793

The Vikings raided Lindisfarne.