

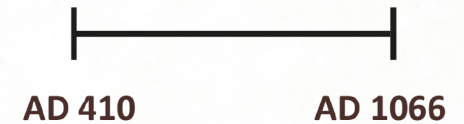
# Anglo-Saxons

Approximately 1600 years ago, Britain was in chaos. The Romans had ruled for more than 400 years but left in AD 410 to defend the rest of their empire. New groups of settlers called Jutes, Angles and Saxons started to arrive in Britain in AD 400, even before the last Roman soldiers had left.

Their arrival marked the beginning of the Anglo-Saxon era. Many battles and struggles for power soon followed.



## The Anglo-Saxon period



## Invaders

The Jutes, Saxons and Angles arrived from Denmark and Germany. Between them, they attacked or killed British men, forcing many to flee to Cornwall, Wales or Scotland for safety. By AD 650, the invaders had claimed England as their own country and had divided it into seven kingdoms. Each Kingdom was ruled by its own Anglo-Saxon king.



## The kings attack!

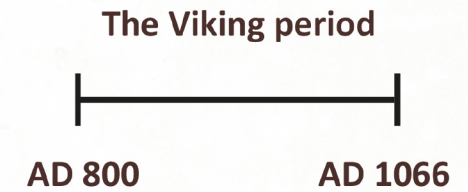
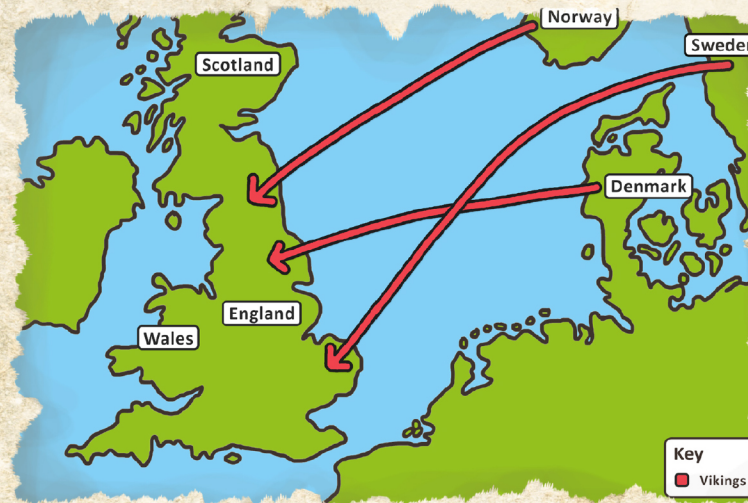
The Anglo-Saxons also attempted to invade Scotland. However, their attempts came to an end in AD 685, when King Ecgfrith of Northumbria lost a fierce battle to the Scottish Picts.

As well as fighting Britons, kings from different Anglo-Saxon kingdoms often fought each other! King Offa of Mercia killed many kings from nearby kingdoms, and he also tried to conquer Wales. However, his attacks on Wales failed. In AD 785, he decided to build a huge earth wall, known as Offa's Dyke, to separate his kingdom from Wales.



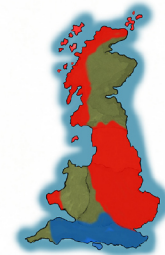
# Vikings

After nearly 400 years of Anglo-Saxon invasions and rule, a new threat landed on Britain's shores. A fierce group of invaders, known as Vikings, began to attack Britain, and a new struggle for power and land soon followed.



## Peace at last?

By AD 870, the only Anglo-Saxon Kingdom left was Wessex, which was defended from the Vikings by King Alfred the Great. In AD 886, he made a special agreement with the Vikings to share Britain between them.



Despite their agreement, the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings continued to fight for many years to come.

The last Anglo-Saxon king was Edward the Confessor. When he died in 1066, Anglo-Saxon rule over England ended and a new battle to become the King of England began.

## Viking raids

The Vikings came from Denmark, Sweden and Norway and first raided England in AD 787. At first, the Vikings carried out violent raids, stealing precious items and burning down buildings, before returning home. However, they eventually conquered the land and took over most of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms.

