

Information sheet about the Anglo- Saxons

The Anglo-Saxons came to England after the Romans left in the year 410. Nobody was really ruling all of England at the time – there were a lot of little kingdoms ruled by Anglo-Saxons that eventually came together as one country.

The earliest English kings were Anglo-Saxons, starting with Egbert in the year 802. Anglo-Saxons ruled for about three centuries, and during this time they formed the basis for the English monarchy and laws.

The two most famous Anglo-Saxon kings are Alfred the Great and Canute the Great.

Top 10 facts about the Anglo- Saxons

1. The Anglo-Saxons are made up of three tribes who came to England from across the North Sea around the middle of the 5th century: the Angles, Saxons and Jutes.
2. For a long time, England wasn't really one country – Anglo-Saxon kings ruled lots of little kingdoms across the land.
3. Egbert was the first Anglo-Saxon king to rule England. The last Anglo-Saxon king was Harold II in 1066.
4. The two most famous Anglo-Saxon kings are Alfred the Great and Canute the Great.
5. The Anglo-Saxon period covers about 600 years, and Anglo-Saxon kings ruled England for about 300 years.
6. We know how the Anglo Saxons lived because archaeologists have found old settlements and excavated artefacts like belt buckles, swords, bowls and even children's toys.
7. We can also read about what happened during Anglo-Saxon times in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles.
8. Anglo-Saxons once worshipped lots of different gods that they believed controlled all areas of life, but around the 7th century many converted to Christianity after the arrival of the missionary St. Augustine from Rome.
9. Some of our modern English words, such as the days of the week, come from the Anglo-Saxon language (sometimes called Old English).
10. Anglo-Saxons lived in small villages near rivers, forests and other important resources that gave them everything they needed to care for farm animals, grow crops and make things to sell.

