

**Who were the Anglo-Saxons?**

The Anglo-Saxons were made up of three groups of people from Germany, Denmark and The Netherlands. The groups were named the **Angles**, the **Saxons**, and the **Jutes**.

The Angles and the Saxon tribes were the largest of the three attacking tribes and so we often know them as Anglo-Saxons. They all shared the same language but were each ruled by different strong warriors.

**Key Vocabulary**

<b>Danegeld</b>	"Paying the Dane". King Etherlred paid the Vikings 4500kg of silver to go home but they kept returning and were paid 22,000kg of silver in Danegeld altogether.
<b>Exile</b>	To be sent away.
<b>Invade</b>	To enter and occupy land.
<b>Kingdom</b>	An area ruled by a king.
<b>Outlawed</b>	Having all property taken away and no longer being able to live in the community.
<b>Wergild</b>	A payment system used to settle disputes between a criminal and the victim or their family.

**Where did they settle?**

The Jutes settled mainly in Kent.

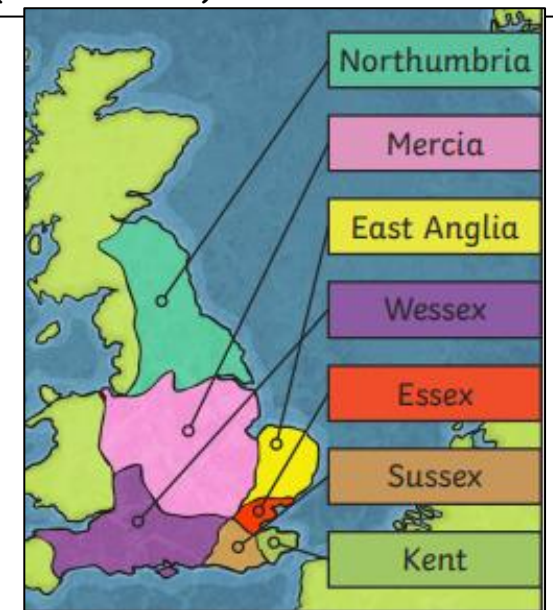
However, they did not call themselves 'the Jutes', they called themselves 'the Kentings' because they lived in Kent.

The Angles settled in East Anglia. The Saxons settled in areas of Essex (East Saxons), Sussex (South Saxons), Middlesex (Middle Saxons), and Wessex (West Saxons).

**Anglo-Saxon Kings**

There were many famous Kings in the Anglo-Saxon era. However, the early Anglo-Saxon Britain wasn't usually ruled by one person and the Anglo-Saxons were not united. They formed different tribes and each tribe took over different parts of Britain as shown in the map. Each tribe had a strong and successful leader who they called 'cyning', which is the Anglo-Saxon word for 'king'.

Each king ruled a kingdom and led a small army. From time to time, the strongest king would claim to be 'bretwalda', which meant ruler of all Britain.



**How did Anglo-Saxons write?**

The Anglo-Saxons didn't use the same alphabet that we are used to. They had their own called runes.

**Alfred the Great**

There were many famous Anglo-Saxon kings, but the most famous of all was Alfred. Alfred the Great is the only British king to have 'the Great' after their name.

The coins used by the Anglo Saxons referred to him as 'King of the English'. Many believe that he was the first true King of England. Alfred made good laws and believed education was important. He had books translated from Latin into English, so people could read them. He also told monks to begin writing the

Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. To help protect his kingdom from Viking attacks, Alfred built forts and walled towns known as 'burhs'. We now know these as boroughs.

**Where did the Anglo-Saxons live?**

They mainly built their houses from wood and their roofs were usually made from thatched straw. They didn't have windows with glass. Windows were usually thin, long slits in the wood. This let the light in but also let in the wind and the rain.

**Laws and Punishment**

The Anglo-Saxon laws were very similar to some we have today, although the punishments were very different. These were often very brutal and would be carried in public to act as deterrents, to discourage others from committing such crimes. Stoning, whipping and exile were common punishments; as well as paying a fine (wergild), or receiving reparations in the form of hot or cold water ordeals.

