

# Primary History

# Anglo-Saxons

Name:		
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Class:

## Knowledge organiser

	Timeline
410 CE	Last Romans leave Britain and the Picts begin to attack the Britons
449–450 CE	Angles, Saxons and Jutes begin to settle in Britain
515 CE	Battle of Mount Badon – between the Britons and the Anglo-Saxons
570 CE	Heptarchy emerges in England
597 CE	St Augustine brings Christianity to England from Rome
613 CE	Northumbrian kings rule over most of England
73I CE	Bede completes Ecclesiastical History of the English People
757 CE	Offa becomes King of Mercia and arguably first king of all England
789 CE	First recorded Viking attack (in Dorset)

I	Key people
Augustine	Christian missionary considered responsible for lots of people converting to Christianity in Britain
Princess Bertha	Christian (and wife of Aethelbert) who helped Augustine convert the King to Christianity
King Aethelbert	King of Kent who created the first Germanic law code in the early 7th century
King Offa	King of Mercia and most of England in the mid 8th century
Gildas	Monk who wrote about the Roman and Saxon invasions of Britain
Bede	Monk in Northumbrian monastery who wrote a history of the English church and people

	Vocabulary	
Anglo- Saxons	Angles and Saxons (and often also used to include Jutes): the tribes that came from territories we now call Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands; term also used in reference to the other peoples and time in Britain when the Angles, Saxons and Jutes ruled, between the times the Romans left and the Vikings arrived	
Celts/ Britons	Inhabitants of territories we now call England and Wales	
Christianity	Religion that worships one god, based on the teachings of Jesus Christ; at the time of the Anglo- Saxons, religion practised in Rome	
Heptarchy	Seven kingdoms of Britain: Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Essex, Sussex, Wessex and Kent	
Kingdoms	Territories ruled by kings or queens	
Pagans	People with a religion other than the official / most widespread one(s); for Anglo-Saxons the worship of gods for different areas of daily life	
Picts	Inhabitants of territories we now call Scotland	
Rebellion	Violent fight against a powerful group or leader who is in control	
Scots	Inhabitants of territories we now called Ireland, who invaded and settled in territories we now call Scotland	

Anglo-Saxon days of the week			
Monday	Monandæg	Moon's day	
Tuesday	Tiwesdæg Tiw's day		
Wednesday	Wodnesdæg Woden's day		
Thursday	Dunresdæg Dunor's / Thunor's day		
Friday	Frigedæg Freyja's day		
Saturday	y Sæternesdæg Saturn's day (Roman)		
Sunday	Sunnandæg Sun's day		

Anglo-Saxon gods	
Woden	Chief god: god of wisdom
Freya / Frigg	Goddess of love
Balder	God of immortality
Eostre	Goddess of birth
Hel	Goddess of death
Loki	God of cunning
Saxnot	God of the family
Donor	God of thunder
Tiw	God of war
Wade	God of the sea
Wayland	God of metalworking

#### **Anglo-Saxon kingdoms**

The Jutes settled in Kent.

The Angles settled in East Anglia.

The Saxons settled in Essex (east Saxons), Sussex (south Saxons), Wessex (west Saxons) and Middlesex (middle Saxons). Middlesex was not a separate kingdom.

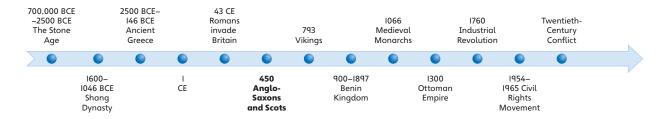


# ♣ Learning review

	Lesson		
resson	question	You will learn	Learning review
_	How did control	• Who was living in Britain after the Romans left	
	of Britain change after	• Where the Germanic tribes who settled in	
, +	the Romans	Britain came from	
<u> </u>	left?	<ul> <li>What peoples lived in Britain after the arrival of the Anglo-Saxons</li> </ul>	
2	What was life	<ul> <li>What Anglo-Saxon villages were like</li> </ul>	
_ (	like in Anglo-	<ul> <li>What the Anglo-Saxons believed</li> </ul>	
<b>,</b>	Saxon Britain?	<ul> <li>How the Anglo-Saxons became Christian</li> </ul>	
8	Who ruled	<ul> <li>What the seven kingdoms of Anglo-Saxon</li> </ul>	
7	Anglo-Saxon	Britain were	
ш_	Britain?	<ul> <li>What the most famous kings achieved</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>What kinds of weapon the Anglo-Saxons</li> </ul>	
		used in battle	
4	What can	<ul> <li>Why this period is sometimes called the Dark</li> </ul>	
>	written sources	Ages	
<u>.                                    </u>	tell us about life	<ul> <li>What our primary forms of evidence and</li> </ul>	
	in Anglo-Saxon	information about the period are	
	Britain	<ul> <li>What the three main written sources about</li> </ul>	
		Anglo-Saxon Britain are	
5	Can you design	• What threat resulted in the building of burhs	
0.4	an Anglo-Saxon	<ul> <li>Which former burh settlements still exist as</li> </ul>	
		towns	
		<ul> <li>What features an Anglo-Saxon burh had</li> </ul>	
9	Assessment: How	Assessment: How did the Anglo-Saxons change life in Britain?	

# Lesson I

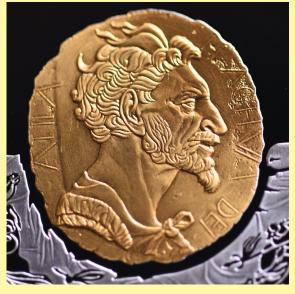
# How did control of Britain change after the Romans left?



#### The fall of Rome

The Romans called anyone who wasn't a member of the Roman Empire a barbarian. In the fourth century, the Roman Empire was being attacked by barbarian tribes all over Europe. The most famous tribe was the Huns, led by Attila the Hun.

The barbarian attacks led to the end of the Roman Empire, which had become too big for its army to occupy (and so defend) completely. Between 383 CE and 410 CE, the Roman leaders and armies left Britain forever.



Attila the Hun, as shown on a Kazakh coin

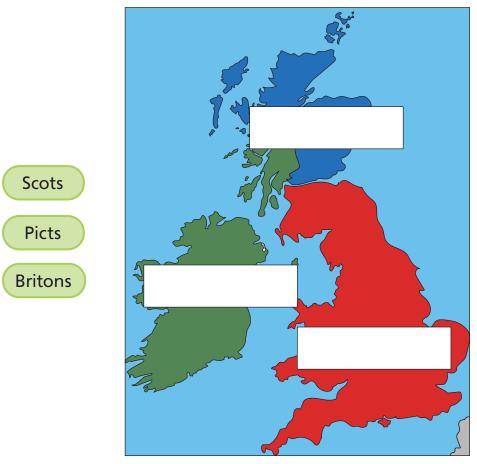
Some Roman people stayed, but Britain was largely left to those who had lived there before the Romans. They were the **Celts**, who lived in England and Wales and became known as the **Britons**; the **Picts**, who lived in what we now call Scotland; and the **Scots**, who came from Ireland (but would go on to invade and settle in Scotland).

#### The invasions begin

With the Romans gone, the Britons were attacked from many directions. The Scots attacked Wales and the west of England from across the sea. The Picts attacked from the north and raided the northern English towns.



I. Label the map of Great Britain to show where the Scots, Picts and Britans lived. Write your answers in the boxes.





2. Draw arrows on the map to show the directions of the raids carried out by the Picts and Scots.

#### The Britons fight back

The Britons couldn't defend themselves very well. However, there were three tribes of effective fighters in Europe: the Jutes from Jutland, the Angles from Angeln and the Saxons from Saxony.

A British chief called Vortigern invited these tribes to England to help him fight. In return, they got gold and land in south and east England, where farmland was better than in their homelands.



**3.** Match each tribe with the area it came from. Draw a line between them.

Tribes
Saxons
Jutes
Angles

Areas
Jutland
Angeln
Saxony

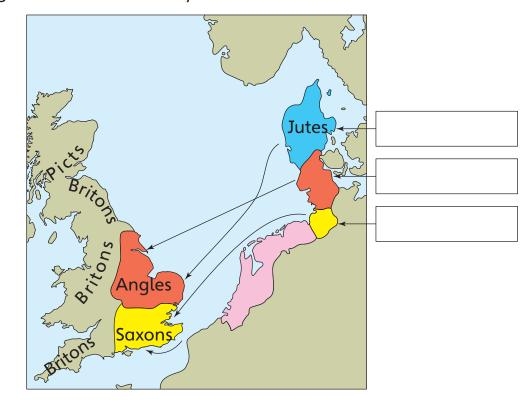


Saxons

Jutes

Angles

**4.** Label the map of northern Europe to show where the Saxons, Jutes and Angles came from. Write your answers in the boxes.





**5.** Why did the British welcome the tribes from Jutland, Angeln and Saxony? Write your answer.

#### The Anglo-Saxons take the east

The Saxons could see the British were not good fighters, and kept asking for more land and money. Two brothers called Hengist and Horsa led a Saxon army against the Britons. Entire villages were burnt down. The Angles joined with the Saxons, becoming the **Anglo-Saxons**. They took complete control of the east of England, whilst the Britons stayed in the west.



**6.** What did the Anglo-Saxons repeatedly demand from the Britons? Write your answer.

#### A new Britain

One British chief fought back: Ambrosius Aurelian led a **rebellion** that defeated the Saxon army at the Battle of Badon Hill.

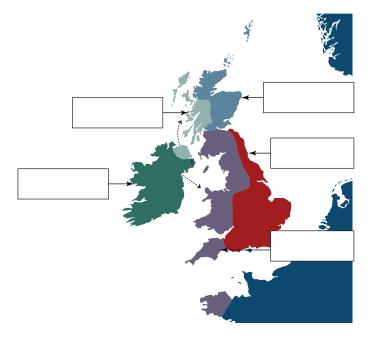
However, the Anglo-Saxons were slowed, not stopped. Over the next few centuries, they took more and more land. This is why the east of the country today is called East Anglia, and the whole country is called England (Angle-land).

By about 600 CE, the country looked very different. The Scots had settled in Pictland, but the country wouldn't be known as Scotland until 843 CE. The Anglo-Saxons mixed with each other and gained more land, changing Britain's lifestyle and culture.



7. Label the map of Britain in 600 CE to show where the Saxons, Britons, Picts, Scots and Irish had settled. Write your answers in the boxes.





# Lesson 2

## What was life like in **Anglo-Saxon Britain?**





I.	What were the names of the Saxon brothers who attacked the Britons? Tick the <b>two</b> correct answers.
	a. Hengist
	b. Vortigern
	c. Horsa
	d. Ambrosius
2.	Write two reasons the Anglo-Saxons came to Britain.
	I
	2
	<del></del>
_	
3.	What did the Romans call people who were from outside their Empire? Write your answer.
	Empire: write your ariswer.
4.	What was the name of the battle in which Ambrosius Aurelian's
→.	rebellion defeated the Saxons? Tick the correct answer.
	a. The Battle of Maldon
	b. The Battle of Jutland
	c. The Battle of East Anglia
	d. The Battle of Badon Hill
5.	Read the statements below. Tick 'True' or 'False' for each one.
	a. The Scots were from Scotland. True False
	b. The Picts were from Ireland. True False
	c. The Britons were from England and Wales. True 🗌 False 🗌

#### A simple life

The Anglo-Saxons chose not to live in the cities left by the Romans. They moved into the countryside and built smaller houses with lots of land to farm. These villages were centred around a larger house called the hall, where the village chief, called a 'thane' lived. Most people at this time were craftsmen or farmers, called 'ceorls'. They grew crops and kept animals.

The houses were very basic.
The walls were made of wood, and they had thatched roofs.
Each house had just one, big room, with an open fire in the middle. Everyone would sleep





in the main room together. If it got cold outside, they would bring the farm animals into the house too. The thane's hall was much bigger: it was able to hold all the villagers for special occasions.

<b>5</b> .

- I. Read the statements below. Tick 'True' or 'False' for each one.
  - a. A ceorl was the ruler of an Anglo-Saxon village.
  - b. Anglo-Saxons lived in stone buildings left by the Romans.
  - c. Each person in an Anglo-Saxon house had their own room.

True	Fal	lse

True	False
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True		Fa	lse	
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#### Work on the farm

Most people in Anglo-Saxon Britain were farmers. Farm life was hard. From around the age of ten, you had to start working. Most people never learnt to read or write. Men worked outdoors, ploughing fields, chopping down trees, hunting and fishing. Men also worked to make the family money, for example by crafting items out of clay, metal or wood.

Women were expected to do work in or near the home, like weaving baskets, knitting clothes, making cheese, baking bread and cooking meals. Men might share these tasks, especially during the winter when it was too cold to work outside.

Not everyone in Anglo-Saxon England lived like this, though. The thane would be in charge of the whole village. The only person more important than the thane was the 'cyning' (king) of a large area. Important women – such as the wife of a thane or cyning – could own land and be rich themselves. Slaves had no real rights.

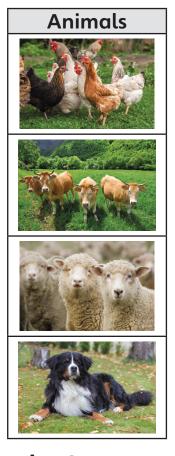
۷.	Imagine you lived on an Anglo-Saxon farm. What jobs would you enjoy? Are there any you would not enjoy? Write your answer.

#### Food and feasts

At feasts hosted by thanes, villagers might enjoy roasted meat and mead (an alcoholic drink made from honey). However, most Anglo-Saxons wouldn't eat meat regularly. It was too expensive to kill an animal just for its meat, and hunting wild animals was difficult and took a lot of time. They would usually eat things that were easy to grow, such as cereals, bread, wheat, fruit and vegetables.



**3.** Other than for meat, why might animals be farmed? Draw lines between the animals and their products.



Products
Wool
Herding animals Guarding
Milk Leather
Eggs Feathers

#### The Anglo-Saxon gods

The Romans had introduced **Christianity** to Britain, but most Britons were **pagans**: they had a religion that wasn't run by one big organisation like the Christian church. Instead, they worshipped many gods associated with different elements of life. Their chief god was Woden.

The Anglo-Saxons were pagans too, but they believed in different gods, from Norse mythology. Some of our days of the week came to be named after the Anglo-Saxon gods.



**4.** Match each day of the week to the god or celestial body it represents. Draw a line between them.

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday

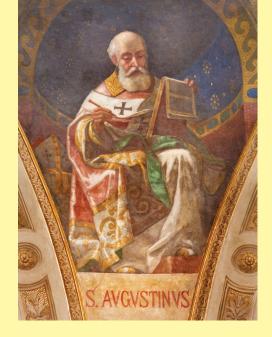
Woden's day
Sun's day
Saturn's day (Roman)
Tiw's day
Freyja's day
Moon's day
Thunor's day

#### The return of Christianity

In 596 CE, Pope Gregory sent priests led by a monk called Augustine to change Britain's religion to Christianity. They arrived in Kent and Augustine thought that if he could convince King Aethelbert of Kent to become a Christian, others would follow.

Augustine was helped by Princess Bertha, Aethelbert's wife, who was already a Christian. Aethelbert was baptised and commanded all of his people to change their religion to Christianity.

People were also being converted in the north and west of England.



By 700 CE, most people living in Britain were Christians.



- **5.** Cross out the incorrect words to complete these sentences.
  - a. Anglo-Saxons were pagans who believed in many gods / no god / one god.
  - b. Many days of the week / months / times of day are named after Norse gods.
  - c. A group of monks arrived in Britain in 596, led by **Augustine / Aethelbert / Woden**.
  - d. After roughly **50 / 100 / 500** years, most Anglo-Saxons had become Christians.

# Lesson 3

## Who ruled Anglo-Saxon **Britain?**





## **Quiz**

I.			
	a. Life on an Anglo-Saxon farm was easy for		
	the people living there.	True False	
	b. Anglo-Saxon farmers were called 'ceorls'.	True False	
	c. The Romans were pagans.	True False	
2.	Who was most important in Anglo-Saxon socie answer.	ety? Tick the correct	
	a. A ceorl		
	b. A thane		
	c. A slave		
3.	Which god was the most important for pagan	Anglo-Saxons?	
	Tick the correct answer.	-	
	a. Woden		
	b. Wodin		
	c. Odin		
	d. Thor		
4.	In what year did Augustine arrive in Kent? Wri	te your answer.	
5.	Which king did Princess Bertha and Augustine convert to Christianity? Write your answer.		
	King of		

#### The Heptarchy

By about 600 CE, England had split into seven **kingdoms**. We call the seven kingdoms the **Heptarchy**.

The kingdoms would often invade each other. Sometimes one king would claim to be the leader of all of the Britons, known as the 'bretwalda'. It would be difficult to keep control of the whole country, however, because of the large area.

The biggest kingdoms in the Heptarchy were Northumbria and Mercia, and they were originally the most powerful. As time went on, though, Wessex became more powerful and eventually ruled over all of England.

We do not know about all of the kings who ruled the seven kingdoms, but there are stories about some of them in *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*. People have also found coins that show kings' faces.



 Divide the blank map of the UK into the seven kingdoms, and label each kingdom.



Draw arrows between the neighbouring kingdoms to show how many nearby enemies each kingdom might have had to fight.



3. The names of the different kingdoms give us clues about who lived there. Match the kingdoms with the people. Draw a line between them.

Wessex
Mercia
Northumbria
East Anglia
Essex
Kent
Sussex

East Saxons
East Angles
South Saxons
People of the Marches
West Saxons
North Angles
The Canti (Saxons)



#### King Offa of Mercia

We know quite a lot about King Offa, who ruled over Mercia, the most powerful kingdom in Britain, from 757 to 796 CE. A king needed to be a mighty warrior during this time, and Offa won many battles against neighbouring kingdoms.

He invaded East Anglia and Kent, and controlled most of Wessex as well. He built a huge dyke (a protective wall of earth) up along the western edge of Mercia, to make it difficult for the Welsh to invade. You can still see bits of the dyke today.





4. Draw a thick red line on this image to show where Offa's dyke was.

#### **King Egbert of Wessex**

Mercia did not stay the most powerful kingdom. In 802 CE, King Egbert of Wessex was crowned, and he fought back against the Mercians. King Egbert invaded the nearby kingdoms of Sussex, Essex and Kent. With his bigger army, he then invaded Mercia. In 829 CE, he defeated King Wiglaf of Mercia, who had taken the throne after King Offa died.

King Egbert was the first bretwalda: the first king to unite all of England. He couldn't keep control of all of these kingdoms, but his time ruling them weakened Mercia and made Wessex the most powerful kingdom.



Э.	rill in the blanks to complete these sentences.
	Power was always changing hands in Anglo-Saxon times. In the
	middle of the eighth century CE, the most powerful kingdom in
	England was To stop the Welsh invading,
	built a huge along its
	border. Then a new king of Wessex, called,
	invaded Mercia and weakened the kingdom forever.

#### Weapons and warfare

We know quite a lot about the weapons used by Anglo-Saxons in battle, because they were made out of metal that has survived. People have found swords, spears, axes, helmets, parts of shields and chainmail. Even some weapons made of gold have been found.





**6.** Look at these weapons. What might battles have been like during Anglo-Saxon times? Write your answer.

# Unit progress check in

I.	Which famous barbarian defeated many Roman armies? Write your answer.			
	the Hun			
2.	Where did the Scots originally come from? Tick the correct answer.  Germany  Ireland  Denmark  Scotland			
3.	Read the statements below. Tick 'True' or 'False' for each one.  I. Anglo-Saxon farmers grew wheat and vegetables.  I. Most Anglo-Saxon villagers were traders.  I. Most Anglo-Saxons' diet included lots of roasted meat.  True False			
4.	Vhat god was Friday named after? Write your answer.			
5.	Give one example of a job that was typically done by women in Anglo-Saxon Britain. Write your answer.			
6.	What is the word for a king who claimed to rule all Britons in the Anglo-Saxon period? Write your answer.			
7.	Which kingdoms did King Offa and King Egbert rule? Write your answers.			
	(ing Offa ruled			
	ing Egbert ruled			

# Lesson 4

## What can written sources tell us about life in **Anglo-Saxon Britain?**

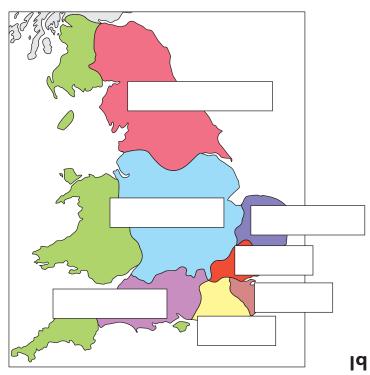




## 삕 Quiz

I.	Write three jobs an Anglo-Saxon farmer may have done.
	a c b
2.	What was the name of the monk who reintroduced Christianity in 596 CE? Write your answer.
3.	Why did Offa build his dyke? Tick the correct answer.  a. To help with farming  b. To protect against bad weather  c. To make it difficult for the Welsh to invade  d. To make it difficult for the Scots to invade
4.	Label this map with the kingdom names.





#### Where is the evidence?

There is a lot of written evidence of what life was like when the Romans ruled Britain. However, very little writing exists from the period immediately afterwards. This is likely to be because very few of the people left in Britain could read and write. Sometimes this period is called the Dark



People re-enacting Anglo-Saxons going into battle

Ages because the lack of written evidence means historians are unsure about what events took place.

However, there is plenty of archaeological evidence: evidence from objects and buildings of the past.

We know this was a violent time because of the weapons and armour that have been found. We also know that some people were very wealthy because, in 2010, a huge collection of Anglo-Saxon treasure was found: the Staffordshire Hoard. This hoard, which means a 'store', was a collection of metalwork used in battles.



Anglo-Saxon treasure

False



- I. Read the statements below. Tick 'True' or 'False' for each one.
  - a. Historians know a lot about the Anglo-Saxons because they wrote so many books.
  - b. Archaeology means the study of objects and buildings from the past.
- True False
- c. The Staffordshire Hoard was a huge collection of weapons.

True	Fals	е
11 4 6	1 413	_

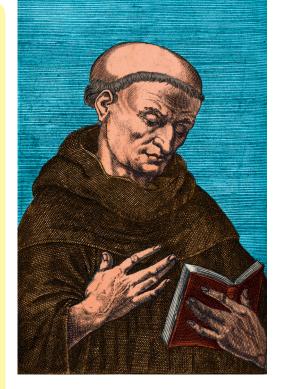
#### Gildas the Wise

One source of written evidence was a monk named Gildas, often called 'Gildas the Wise'. He was born in about 500 CE.

He wrote a book called *On the Ruin* and *Conquest of Britain*, about the Romans and Saxons defeating the Celts. It describes the Battle of Badon Hill, and a long section criticises Celtic kings for being weak and pagan.

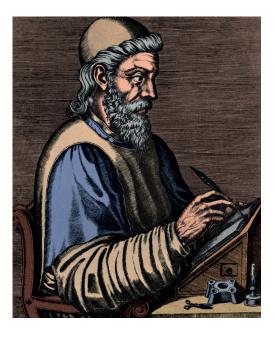
Gildas was a Christian, which makes some of his work less trustworthy: he often seems to be more interested in arguing why Christianity is good than in recording events reliably.

Although Gildas wrote a lot about life in Anglo-Saxon Britain, it is difficult to know how much of it is true. He thought kings did not live like proper Christians, and he hated all invaders for their violence and greed.



#### The Venerable Bede

The Venerable Bede, another monk, wrote more accurately about the period by using and checking different sources of information.



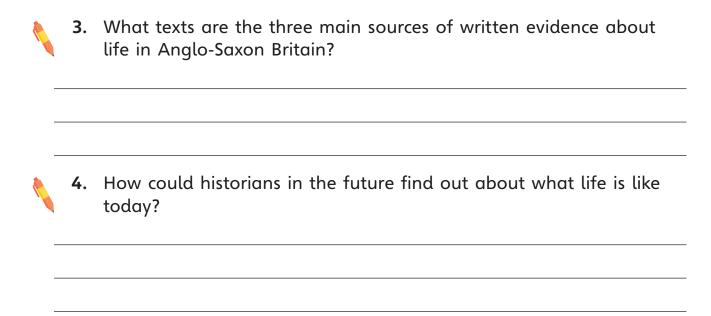
Bede is sometimes known as the 'Father of English History' because he wrote about the church and the history of people in England. He wrote *An Ecclesiastical History of the English People* in about 730 CE.

2. What makes Bede's work more reliable than Gildas's work? Write your answer.

#### The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

The other source of written evidence is the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*. King Alfred the Great had the good idea to write down a list of all of the events that had taken place between the fourth and tenth centuries.

This period is a fascinating time because so much seemed to be changing. It is difficult to be sure of exactly what was happening and when, though, because events were recorded years or centuries after they happened. A lot of details are missing and some information might even be wrong.



# Lesson 5

# Can you design an Anglo-Saxon burh?





I .	Redu the statements below. Tick true of Fatse	e ioi euch c	me.
	a. Historians have a very good idea about wh life in Anglo-Saxon Britain was like.	at True	False
	b. Most Anglo-Saxon people could read and write.	True	False
	c. Bede tried to ensure what he wrote		
	was correct.	True	False
2.	. Who created the three main written sources about life in Anglo-Saxon Britain? Write your answers.		
3.	What was the name of the large collection of	Anglo-Saxor	n treasure
	found in 2010? Tick the correct answer.		. —
		/iltshire Gold	
		orkshire Rich	ies
4.	What battle did Gildas write about? Write your The Battle of	answer.	
5.	Why were the Dark Ages given that name? Tick	the correct	answer.
	a. We do not know much about what happen	ed	
	during this time period.		
	b. People did not have electricity so their hom		·k.
	c. There was not much sunlight so the days w	ere darker.	
	d. Everyone wore dark clothing.		

#### **Invaders from the East**

The Anglo-Saxons had invaded England from across the sea. From the eighth century, new invaders were sailing to England to raid the villages near the coast. These new invaders were from countries like Norway, Sweden and Denmark, in Europe. They wanted Anglo-Saxon treasure and land to farm.



The Anglo-Saxons called the invaders Danes because many of them came from Denmark. Today, we call them Vikings.



I. Why did the Vikings invade Britain? Write your answer.



2. Where did the Vikings come from?

#### Alfred's defence of Britain

The Anglo-Saxons had to fight off these invaders. Although Egbert was the first king to unite the kingdoms and rule over all of England, Alfred the Great was perhaps the most famous and successful bretwalda because of how he dealt with the Vikings.

Alfred defeated the Danes in many battles, but it was easier to agree to peace than keep fighting. He made deals to give them land in the east of England, which became known as 'Danelaw' because it was under 'Danish' law.





3. What was a 'bretwalda'?

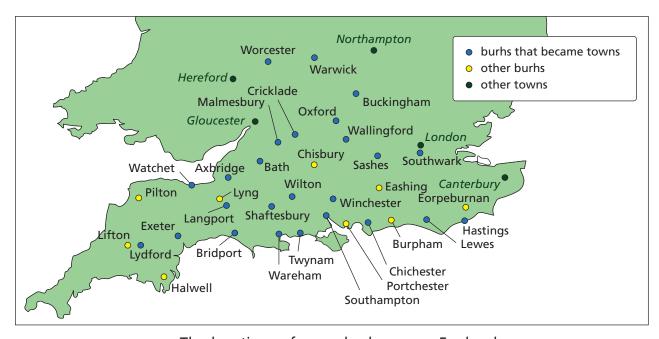
#### **Building burhs**

Alfred also built burhs.
These were huge forts
with high walls around
them, usually built on
hills. The walls and the
climb up the hill made
them difficult to attack
and easy to defend. There
were already some forts
that the Romans had left
behind, but Alfred built
even more.



Burhs were designed to protect lots of people who came from all the farms and villages in the nearby area. To fit in as many people as possible, houses were laid out in a grid inside the walls. This way of living was very different from the Anglo-Saxons' spread-out network of farming villages.

The burhs became the first large towns in Anglo-Saxon England, and survived the invasions of the Vikings. Many became large towns and cities that still exist.



The locations of some burhs across England

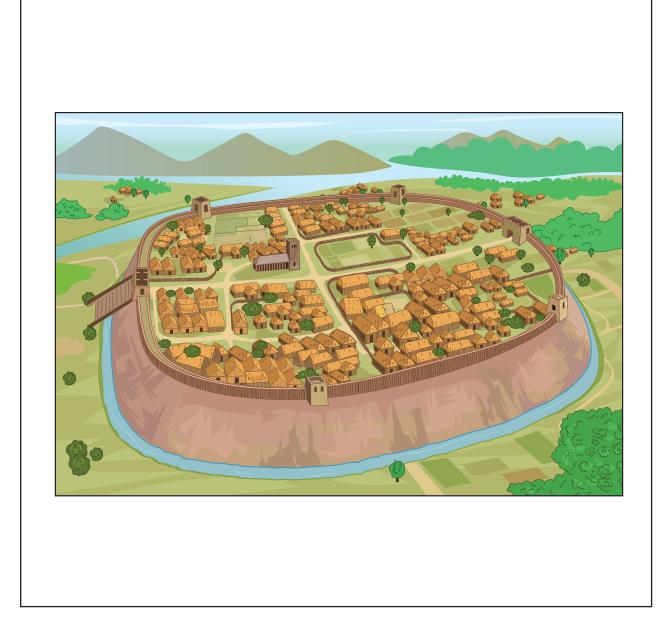


4. How did the Anglo-Saxons defend themselves against the Vikings? Write your answer.



**5.** Design your own Anglo-Saxon burh. Think about what you would need in your village, and what the Anglo-Saxons would have available to them at the time. Label your village clearly. You could include the features listed below.

hill wall house street gate market hall



# Lesson 6

### **Unit check out**





Write an answer to this question: How did the Anglo-Saxons change life in Britain?

	Key words	
Anglo-Saxon	Dane	Roman
Briton	Heptarchy	Scot
burh	pagan	thane
ceorl	Pict	Viking
Christian		

<b>Title:</b> How did the Anglo-Saxons change life in Britain?	
<ul> <li>Introduction</li> <li>Who was living in Britain before the Anglo-Saxons arrived?</li> <li>When and why did the Anglo-Saxons travel to Britain?</li> <li>Who lived in Britain under Anglo-Saxon rule?</li> </ul>	

<ul> <li>Paragraph I</li> <li>Who ruled Britain when the Anglo-Saxons established control?</li> <li>How was the country organised?</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Paragraph 2</li> <li>What were Anglo-Saxon villages like?</li> <li>What were the villagers' priorities?</li> <li>What jobs would most people do?</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Paragraph 3</li> <li>What religion did Anglo-Saxons originally follow?</li> <li>How and why did their beliefs change?</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Extension</li> <li>Why did the Vikings invade England?</li> <li>How did the Anglo-Saxons try to defend themselves?</li> <li>How did this defensive plan change their way of life?</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Conclusion</li> <li>How was life in Anglo-Saxon Britain different from life in Roman Britain?</li> <li>How was life when the Anglo-Saxons first arrived different from life when the Vikings invaded?</li> </ul>	

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Anglo-Saxons

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