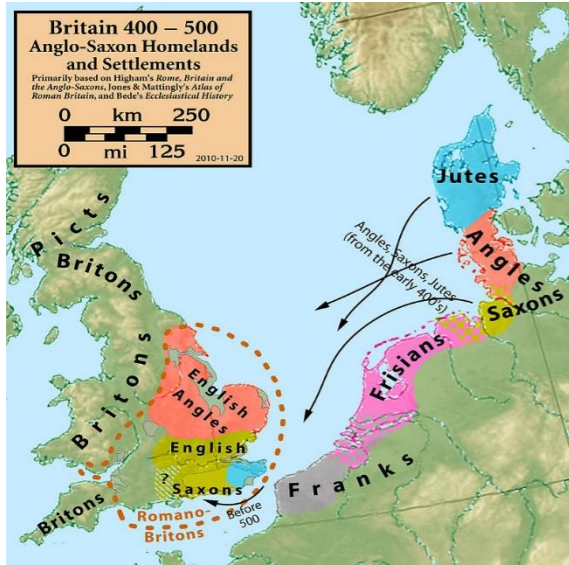


## Beware of the invaders - fact sheet



Anglo-Saxons in Britain went from invaders to settlers to makers. Originally from Germany and Scandinavia, the **Angles, Saxons and Jutes** were lots of warring tribes who settled in Britain from about 410AD.

### Germanic Tribes Angles, Saxons, Jutes



| ROMANS | SAXONS | VIKINGS | NORMANS                      | TUDORS               | VICTORIANS |
|--------|--------|---------|------------------------------|----------------------|------------|
|        |        |         |                              |                      |            |
| AD 43  | 450    | 793     | 1066<br>(Battle of Hastings) | 1485<br>(HENRY VIII) | 1837       |



They left their homes in **Germany**, the **Netherlands** and **Denmark** and sailed over to Britain on wooden boats. Many of them were farmers before they came to Britain and it's thought they were on the look-out for new land as floodwaters back home had made it almost impossible to farm.

The Anglo-Saxons first tried invading in the **4th century**, but the Roman army were quick to send them home again! Years later - around 450AD - the **Ancient Romans** left Britain, the Anglo-Saxons seized their chance and this time they were

#### Did you know?

- We know how the Anglo-Saxons lived because we've found items that they once used buried in the ground - archaeologists excavate spots where Anglo-Saxons houses used to stand - and we've been able to figure out a lot about what their lives were like.
- A famous Anglo-Saxon archaeological site is Sutton Hoo, where a whole ship was used as a grave! An Anglo-Saxon king was buried inside the ship along with some of his possessions, such as his helmet and sword.
- An instrument that people in Anglo-Saxon times would play is the lyre, which is like a small harp.
- Anglo-Saxons mostly lived in one-room houses made from wood, with thatched roofs. Important people in the village would live in a larger building with their advisors and soldiers - this was called the hall.



Helmet from the Sutton Hoo Ship Burial

Many towns and villages still carry their Anglo-Saxon names today, including **"England"** which comes from the Saxon word **"Angle-Land"**.

Early Anglo-Saxon villages were named after the leader of the tribe so everyone knew who was in charge. If you'd visited Reading in Anglo-Saxon times, you'd have been in Redda's village - Redda being the local chieftain.

The Anglo-Saxons settled in many different parts of the country - the Jutes ended up in Kent, the Angles in East Anglia, and the Saxons in parts of Essex, Wessex, Sussex and Middlesex (according to whether they lived East, West, South or middle!)



The Anglo-Saxons didn't like the stone houses and streets left by the Romans, so they built their own villages. They looked for land which had lots of natural resources like food, water and wood to build and heat their homes, and Britain's forests had everything they needed. They surrounded each village with a high fence to protect cattle from wild animals like foxes and wolves, and to keep out their enemies, too!



Anglo Saxon Coins



Anglo Saxon Shoes

They were **fierce people**, who fought many battles during their rule of Britain - often fighting each other! Each tribe was ruled by its own strong warrior who settled their people in different parts of the country.



**Beowulf** is an Old English epic story. It may be the oldest surviving long story in Old English and is commonly cited as one of the most important works of Old English literature. The date of composition is a matter of contention among scholars; the only certain dating pertains to the manuscript, which was produced between 975 and 1025. The author was an anonymous Anglo-Saxon poet.

#### Top facts

- 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.
- For a long time, England wasn't really one country - Anglo-Saxon kings ruled lots of little kingdoms across the land.
- Egbert was the first Anglo-Saxon king to rule England. The last Anglo-Saxon king was Harold II in 1066.
- The two most famous Anglo-Saxon kings are **Alfred the Great** and Canute the Great.
- The Anglo-Saxon period covers about 600 years**, and Anglo-Saxon kings ruled England for about 300 years.
- 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.
- We can also read about what happened during Anglo-Saxon times in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles.
- Anglo-Saxons once worshipped lots of different gods, but around the 7th century many converted to Christianity.
- Some of our modern English words are from the Anglo-Saxons, such as the days of the week.
- 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.



### Anglo-Saxons

