

Who lived in Britain from 450 AD – 1066?

Key Information



In AD425-450, the **Anglo-Saxons** left their homelands in northern Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands and rowed across the North Sea boats to Britain. After many battles they formed seven kingdoms. They introduced new ways of building villages, new culture and societal rules.

Alfred the Great (849-899) was the most famous of the Anglo-Saxon kings. He successfully defended his kingdom, Wessex, against the Vikings. He also introduced wide-ranging reforms.

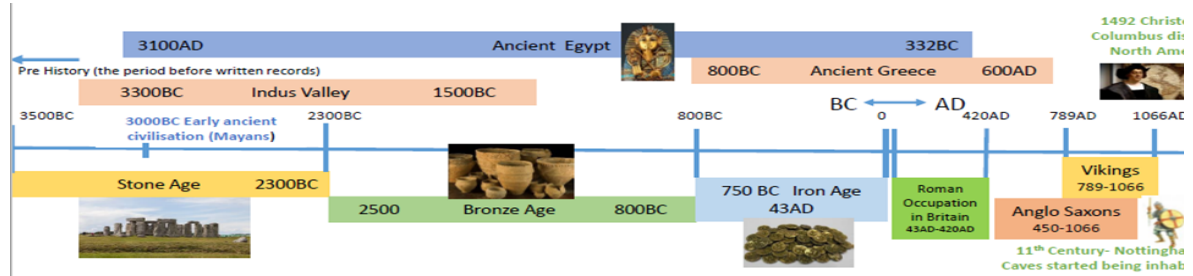
From AD 924-939, Athelstan (Alfred's grandson) became King. During his reign he drove the Vikings back more and more and was able to claim control over a greater area of land.



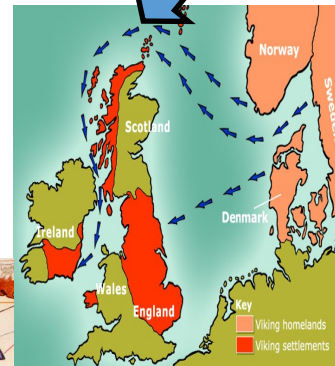
The Scots lived in Ireland and the west coast of northern Britain. The Picts lived in the northern regions of what we now call Scotland. The Picts fought off the Romans, the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings.



In 1066AD ,after the death of Edward the Confessor, Harold became King of England. However, William of Normandy wanted to become King of England so on September 28th, 1066 AD, he landed his troops at Pevensey, near Hastings in south of England. The Bayeux tapestry depicts all of the events including the death of Edward and the battle of Hastings. The battle led to Norman rule in England, after Harold was killed by an arrow.



In AD 700 Vikings came over to Britain and began raiding and invading lands. They came over from Norway, Sweden and Denmark. They were pagan, unlike most of Britain , who were Christians.



Key vocabulary

settlers	The Anglo-Saxons were settlers, they left their own homes and came over to Britain to fight against the Picts and settled here.
Heptarchy	This is the collective name used to describe the seven kingdoms of Anglo-Saxon England
Viking	This literally means "pirate raid" in Norse and became the word used to describe the invaders which came to Britain in AD 700.
Invaders	People who were not invited to settle but instead took lands by force. The Vikings were invaders.
pagan	People who follow paganism as their beliefs not Christian.
conquest	The invasion and assumption of control of England by William of Normandy in 1066