

Who were the Anglo Saxons and how did they live?

Who were the Anglo Saxons and where did they come from?

The Anglo-Saxons were made up of people who rowed across the North Sea from an area that is now northern Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. These people were from 3 tribes: the Angles, the Saxon, and the Jutes. The Angles and the Saxon tribes were the largest of the three attacking tribes and so we often know them as the Anglo Saxons.

Where did the Anglo-Saxons come from?

- The Anglo-Saxons left their homelands in
 - northern Germany 
 - Denmark 
 - The Netherlands 

and rowed across the North Sea in wooden boats to Britain.



The map shows the British Isles with arrows indicating the arrival of the Angles (yellow), Jutes (blue), and Saxons (red) from the North Sea. A legend identifies the areas of Britain they occupied: Angles (yellow), Jutes (blue), and Saxons (red).

Invasion!

In the AD400's, towards the end of Roman Rule, Britain was being attacked by the Picts and the Scots from the North and the Anglo Saxons from the sea. The Romans had built forts along the coast to fight off the sea raiders and Hadrian's wall defended the North but in AD410 the last Roman soldiers left. Britain no longer has strong army to defend it. There were many battles and, over time, the Anglo Saxons took control of Most of Britain.

When did the Anglo Saxons arrive? The Anglo-Saxon age in Britain was from around AD410 to 1066.

How did they get here?



Why did they come?

To fight! Some were warriors who enjoyed fighting.

To Farm: Many came to find land to farm.

To make new homes: Whole families set sail to live in Britain.

They were invited: When the Picts and Scots invaded the Britons invited some Anglo Saxons to help defend them but they didn't leave.

Who ruled in Saxon times?

Alfred the Great- 871-899: Alfred was one of the great Anglo-Saxon kings. After years of fighting, Alfred made peace with the Vikings.

Edward: the Confessor: 1042-1066

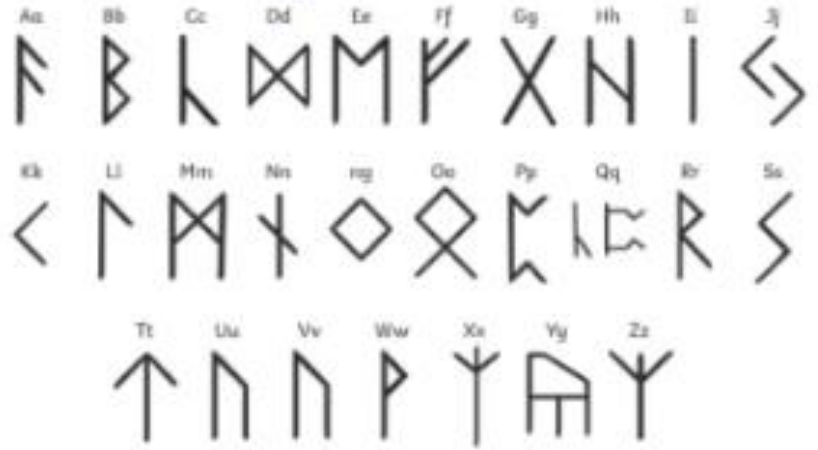
When Edward died without an heir in 1066, there was a fierce battle for control of England which resulted in the Battle of Hastings



The Anglo Saxons used runes as an alphabet

410AD - The Romans leave Britain unguarded.	455AD - The Kingdom of Kent is established.	477-495AD - The Kingdoms of Wessex and Essex are formed.	547 - 586AD - The Kingdoms of Northumbria, East Angles and Mercia are formed.	597AD - St. Augustine arrives in Britain and introduces people to Christianity.	802AD - Egbert becomes the first King of England.	871 - 899AD - Alfred the Great rules.	1016 - 1035AD - Canute the Great - the first Viking king - rules.	1066AD - At the Battle of Hastings the Normans defeat the Anglo-Saxons.
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Anglo Saxon Runes



Sutton Hoo is the site of two Anglo-Saxon cemeteries dating to the 6th and early 7th centuries CE that is located near Woodbridge, Suffolk, England. One contained an undisturbed ship burial including a wealth of Anglo-Saxon artefacts of outstanding art-historical and archaeological significance,



The helmet is one of the most important finds from Sutton Hoo.



Wessex

Wessex, also known as the Kingdom of the West Saxons, where its name comes from, was a large and influential Anglo Saxon Kingdom from 519 to 927 AD. The modern counties of Hampshire, Dorset, Wiltshire and Somerset were part of Wessex.

