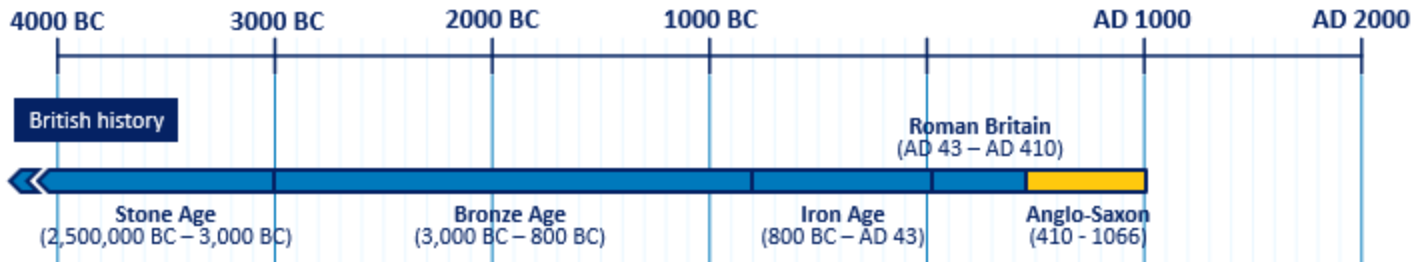


Settlement by Anglo-Saxons

Archaeology

What can we learn about the Anglo-Saxons from what we see today?



Up to AD 410

Romans dominated Britain

By ~AD 500

The Anglo-Saxons invaded Britain in small groups and fought each other as well as Britons for dominance. When one tribe defeated another, it would take over its people and lands. This continued over the years until seven kingdoms emerged: the **heptarchy**.

Fighting continued until seven kingdoms became five, and five kingdoms became three.

By ~800 AD

The Vikings began to successfully invade Britain and, to keep them from taking over everywhere, it was decided to split the land into Anglo-Saxon and Viking areas, known as Danelaw. Pupils will learn more about the Vikings next term.

By ~870 AD

The Vikings had been defeated and England was united under one king.

By ~1000 AD

Vocabulary

Controversial: an adjective to describe things that people struggle to agree on, that often cause heated debates

Corroborate: to confirm or give support to a theory or idea

Excavate: to remove earth from an area in order to find buried remains

Anglo-Saxon: an adjective to describe the period in England from AD 410 to 1066; and a noun to describe a person living in England at this time

Anglo-Saxons: a noun (plural) to describe all the people from all backgrounds living in England in the Anglo-Saxon period

Archaeology: the scientific study of the remains of past human life and activities

Heptarchy: a place that it is split into seven independent regions or kingdoms

Sutton Hoo: the location of an Anglo-Saxon ship burial in East Anglia, dating to AD 610-635

St Hadrian (AD ~630 - AD 710)

St Theodore (AD 602 – AD 690)

Venerable Bede (AD 672 – AD 735)

Background

Hadrian was born in North Africa (probably **Libya**), but he and his family were soon forced to flee to Italy as refugees after Arab invasions. In Italy, Hadrian learned a great deal about Christianity and eventually became an abbot in a monastery near Naples. The Pope at the time recognised Hadrian's talents and hand-picked him to travel to England to help convert the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity.

Theodore grew up in Tarsus, **Turkey** but, like Hadrian, was forced to flee his home after violent invasions. He travelled to Constantinople, studied Christianity and eventually became a monk at a monastery in Rome. Theodore was a great friend of Hadrian, and Hadrian asked Theodore to go with him to England.

Bede was born in Tyne and Wear, **Northumbria**. He survived a deadly plague as a child and committed his life to Christianity. He became a monk at an abbey in Northumbria known today as Monkwearmouth–Jarrow Abbey.

Achievements

Once they had arrived in England, Theodore became the Archbishop of Canterbury and Hadrian became the abbot of a monastery in Kent. Together, they set up one of the only schools in England; it became very successful and a leading light of learning in the period that historians used to call 'the Dark Ages'. The Venerable Bede wrote that the school 'attracted a large number of students, into whose minds they poured the waters of wholesome knowledge day by day'. This knowledge included Greek, poetry, astronomy and Christian scriptures.

Bede travelled across England to visit different monasteries and taught scriptures and wrote many texts. His most famous one is called the 'Ecclesiastical History of the English people'.

Impact on Anglo-Saxon England

Hadrian had a great influence on the Christian festivals that were celebrated in England, and it has been suggested that he introduced some words of North African origin to the English language. Hadrian is more commonly known today as St Adrian.

Theodore was an excellent teacher, but one of his biggest legacies was the use of music in church services across Anglo-Saxon England.

Bede's texts are some of the main sources that we have about Anglo-Saxon England, and he is known as the 'father of English history'. He also made contributions to the calendar, and promoted the use of AD to count years from Christ's birth.

Prior Learning

- Pupils will have learned about archaeology implicitly in year 3 while studying Prehistoric Britain.
- In year 3, pupils will have learned about the beliefs of Prehistoric Britons, and the importance of the natural world. In year 5 pupils will have learned about Roman religion and the conversion to Christianity in AD 380.
- In year 5, pupils will have learned about the different types of power: economic, physical, institutional, intellectual, and informal.
- In year 5, pupils will have learned that historians used to refer to the Anglo-Saxon period as 'the Dark Ages'.

Following on:

In the next unit pupils will learn about the Vikings, and how they interacted with the Anglo-Saxons in England.