

- How hard is it to invade and settle in Britain?

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| claimant | A person who believes they are entitled to be the king or queen. |
| inference | A conclusion reached by using evidence. |
| invasion | A military attack in which an army uses force to take over another country. |
| kingdom | A part of England which was ruled by a king or queen. |
| missionary | A person sent to an area to promote Christianity. |
| oath | A solemn promise. |
| settlement | A place where a community of people live. |
| settlers | People who move to a new country and stay there permanently. |
| Viking raids | Attacks on Britain in which the Vikings landed to steal items. |
| Vikings | Seafaring people from Scandinavia who raided and invaded Britain. |

Anglo-Saxon settlements



The Anglo-Saxons lived in single-roomed huts in villages. Houses were made out of wattle and daub and wood with a thatched roof. They had most things they needed: food, warmth, and family. They left their villages only to trade with others for essential items.

Anglo-Saxon kingdoms

By AD 600, the Anglo-Saxons had stopped fighting each other. England was organised into five kingdoms: Northumbria, Mercia, Wessex, East Anglia, and Kent. Each one was ruled by a king who made laws. Over time, Wessex became the most important kingdom and, in AD 925, Aethlstan became the first king of England.



Lindisfarne, the Holy Island

Aidan built a priory on Lindisfarne in AD 635 which became the centre of Christianity in Northumbria. Here, many monks from the Scottish island of Iona settled. Missionaries travelled to Lindisfarne for training and then journeyed around Northumbria to spread Christianity. The Vikings raided the monastery in AD 793; an attack that shocked the Christian world.



The Viking raids

The Vikings raided Britain to steal items to trade. Over time, they decided they wanted to stay and settled in parts of northern England. In AD 878, Alfred the Great defeated the Vikings at the Battle of Edington and made a deal to split the country in two: Danelaw (the Viking part) and Wessex (the Anglo-Saxon part). Athelstan ended the Vikings' invasion by defeating them at York in AD 927 and became the first Anglo-Saxon king of England.



Anglo-Saxons timeline

