

# Anglo Saxons

## Key Vocabulary

<b>Angles</b>	Tribes from modern day Denmark.
<b>Christianity</b>	A religion based on the teachings of Jesus.
<b>missionary</b>	A person from a religion sent to spread the faith.
<b>Pagan</b>	A religion that involves worshipping many gods and goddesses.
<b>Picts</b>	Tribes originally from Scotland who were 'foul' and had a 'lust for blood'.
<b>Romans</b>	The <b>Romans</b> invaded and settled in Britain for over 400 years, starting with their first successful raid in 54 BC.
<b>Saxons</b>	German - Dutch tribes who settled in Britain from around 450 AD.
<b>Scots</b>	People from Ireland, who, like the <b>Picts</b> , were fierce and powerful fighters.

By around 410 AD, the last of the **Romans** had returned home and left Britain vulnerable to invasions. Irish **Scots** invaded Scotland. The **Picts** and **Scots** were a constant threat to Britain especially without the **Romans** for support.



The **Picts** and **Scots** were powerful fighters so the British king asked his two brothers to come over from modern day Denmark to help keep the **Picts** and **Scots** out. Hengest and Horsa were happy to help and successfully avoided any invasions.

Hengest and Horsa brought over more warriors and began to settle in Britain, pushing the British out. Other tribes also invaded Britain including the **Angles** and **Saxons**, known as the Anglo-Saxons. In about 600 AD, many of the British people were taken as slaves or were forced to escape.



Many areas, towns and villages in Britain are named after the Anglo-Saxons who first settled here.



The early Anglo-Saxons were **Pagans**. They would worship gods during festivals and make sacrifices of objects and animals. They were also very superstitious and believed in good and bad omens, lucky charms, spells and magic. They would perform many rituals that they believed would protect them in this life and the next.

In 597 AD, a **Roman** monk was sent to tell the Anglo-Saxons about **Christianity**.

The King of Kent was the first to be converted and was baptised along with 10,000 of his subjects

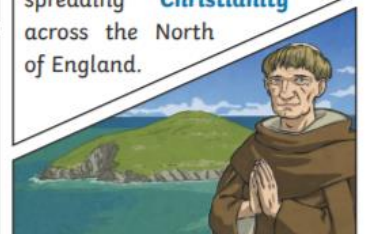
Over the next 100 years, the rest of Britain converted to **Christianity** too.

Oswald gave Aiden the island of Lindisfarne where he built a monastery. This Holy Island was very influential, and the monks here were successful at spreading **Christianity** across the North of England.

Many Irish people were also teaching the religion and **missionaries** were sent to Scotland and England to encourage even more people to follow the religion.

One Irish monk, Columba, was successful in introducing **Christianity** to Scotland. He founded a very important abbey on the Island of Iona, just off the west coast of Scotland.

Other influential monks included Aiden, who was sent from Iona to Northumbria to help King Oswald to spread the word about **Christianity**.





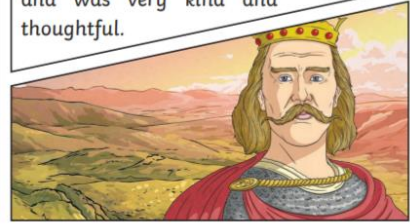
### Anglo-Saxon Laws and Punishments

The Anglo-Saxon laws were very similar to some we have today, although the punishments were very different. These were often very brutal and would be carried in public to act as deterrents, to discourage others from committing such crimes. Stoning, whipping and **exile** were common punishments; as well as paying a fine (**wergild**), or receiving reparations in the form of hot or cold water ordeals.



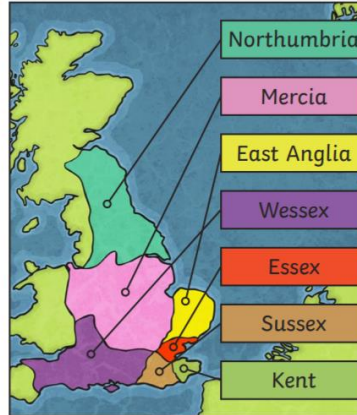
### The Last Anglo-Saxon Kings

AD 1042 – Edward the Confessor became King. He was known as 'the Confessor' because he led a very religious life and was very kind and thoughtful.



### Anglo-Saxon Kings

The kings of Anglo-Saxon Britain each ruled their own **kingdom** and the people in it. They fought to defend their **kingdom** or take control of other **kingdoms**. When the Anglo-Saxons first settled in Britain, there were seven **kingdoms**, but by AD 878 there was just one **kingdom** left (Wessex) as the others had been overrun by the Vikings. Many Anglo-Saxon kings tried to resist the Vikings and fought hard to keep control of their land. King Alfred the Great was the best known Anglo-Saxon king and the first to defeat the Vikings in battle.



AD 1066 – Harold II tried to stop Harald of Norway from invading England and killed him in the Battle of Stamford Bridge.

William, the Duke of Normandy, thought he should be king so came to fight Harold in the Battle of Hastings (AD 1066). Harold was shot through the eye with an arrow and died in the battle. William of Normandy, who became known as William the Conqueror, became King, bringing the Viking and Anglo-Saxon age to an end in AD 1066.

