



## Lilac Class: The Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor

### History: Were the Anglo-Saxons really smashing compared to the Scots?

#### Key Vocabulary

<b>AD</b>	Anno Domini—"in the year of our lord".AD is used to show dates after the birth of Jesus
<b>Anglo-Saxons</b>	The name given to a variety of different tribes who invaded Britain from mainland Europe following the retreat of the Romans.
<b>Conflict</b>	A disagreement about something important.
<b>Conquer</b>	To get or gain force: win by fighting
<b>Danelaw</b>	The name given to parts of the country ruled by the law of the Danes.
<b>Invalidate</b>	An armed force enters a country or region in order to occupy it.
<b>Pagan</b>	A person holding religious beliefs other than those of the main world religions. Someone who believes in many Gods.
<b>Runes</b>	The letters used in the Runic alphabet. This is how the Anglo Saxons wrote.
<b>Settle</b>	To live and take up residence
<b>Settlement</b>	A colony or any small community of people
<b>Unified</b>	A word that means being together
<b>Kingdom</b>	A country whose ruler is a king or queen.
<b>Longship</b>	A long, narrow warship, powered by both oar and sail with many rowers,.
<b>Burial</b>	The action or practice of burying a dead body



#### Key People

King Alfred  
Athelstan  
Guthrum  
King Cnut  
Edward the Confessor

#### Key Places

Tatton Park, Cheshire  
Sutton Hoo, Suffolk  
Butser Ancient Farm, Hampshire  
Alice Holt Forest, Hampshire  
West Stow Anglo- Saxon Village, Suffolk

#### Key Dates

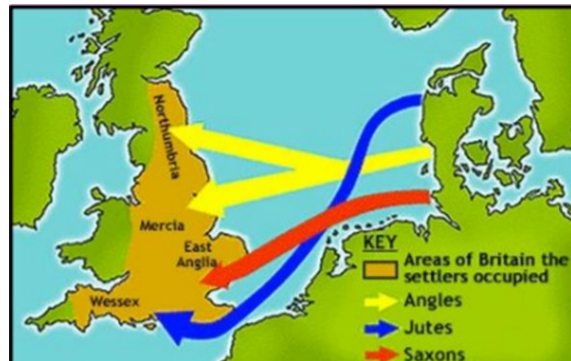
350 CE	Some arrivals from north Europe
410 CE	Last Romans leave Britain
430 CE	First Christian church in Britain is built in Whithorn, Scotland
450 CE	German Saxons settle in Kent
516 CE	Battle of Mount Badon
600 CE	Anglo-Saxons gradually take over Britain
613 CE	Northumbrian kings rule over most of England
633CE	Lindisfarne monastery built
664 CE	Synod of Whitby held
731 CE	Bede completes ecclesiastical history
757 CE	Offa becomes king of Mercia and arguably first king of all England
789 CE	First recorded Viking attack (Dorset)
793 CE	Viking attack on Lindisfarne
871CE	Alfred the Great becomes king of Wessex
886CE	The Vikings and King Alfred divide England
1014CE	King Cnut of Denmark becomes King of England
1042CE	Edward the Confessor becomes king

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**History: Were the Anglo-Saxons really smashing compared to the Scots?**

**Key Knowledge**

The Anglo-Saxon period is usually considered to begin from around 410 following the withdrawal of the Romans from Britain, although some Saxon incursions had taken place earlier. The Anglo-Saxons came from modern-day areas of northern Germany, southern Denmark and the borders of the Netherlands. Tradition also suggested that some invasions of Gaels from the north or Ireland had taken place on the west coast of Scotland, although more recent findings indicate that there is no evidence for such an invasion, and that rather the Scot cultures existed alongside one another in the two modern nations, sharing a common language. The Anglo-Saxon period in England extended over 600 years, right up to the invasion of Wil-



**Key Knowledge**

For the last 300 years of the Anglo Saxons, there were many on-going wars and people lived in fear of Viking raids, especially if they lived on the sea or near a river.

The Anglo-Saxons created the first books; using animal skin parchment the pages were bound together and were only really read by nobles and kings.

There were a wide variety of outdoor sports including hunting, riding and the tug-of-war. Feasts were common and music including harps and pipes were enjoyed.

Most people were farmers and had to work very hard just to stay alive; food took a lot of effort to produce. Some others were craftsmen – Anglo-Saxons were expert metal workers.

Men were buried with their tools and weapons whilst women were often laid to rest with a bowl and a spoon. Rich Anglo-Saxons were sometimes buried in a boat or sometimes cremated as a hero.

There were few cities – instead most people lived in villages in small one roomed homes (which often included their animals) grouped around their thane's home.

There were few doctors, a few people knew Greek or Roman medicine. Herbs and ointments were used to treat most ailments and bloodletting was common.

Before converting to Christianity, as pagans many spells were also used including the ritual of a pregnant woman stepping three times over a dead man's grave to ensure a healthy baby.