



# History: Invaders and Settlers

## Key Vocabulary

Ancient  
Anglo-Saxon  
Viking  
Archaeological  
Archaeologist  
Coppergate  
Excavation  
finds  
Materials  
organic materials  
peaty soil  
Reserve  
Remains  
site, timber  
primary source  
secondary source  
Normans  
Hasting  
Timeline  
Middle Ages  
Invasion  
chronological order

## **Invasion**

The Picts and Scots tried to invade England after AD 410, because the Britons were undefended. In AD 449, a British leader, Vortigern, asked Hengist and Horsa, two Jutes, to come to England to help the Britons. However, the Jutes realised that the land in England was good for farming, so they, along with the Angles and Saxons, invaded England.

## **Settlement**

The Anglo-Saxons invaded the east and south coasts of England and pushed the Celtic Britons west. They split England into seven kingdoms, which became known as the heptarchy. The rulers of these kingdoms fought each other for land and power. By AD 800, there were five main kingdoms: East Anglia, Kent, Mercia, Northumbria and Wessex. Celtic Britons still lived in Wales, Cornwall, Scotland and Ireland.



## **Monasteries**

Monasteries were significant in Anglo-Saxon England because they spread Christianity, promoted reading and writing and provided help for the poor. Monasteries were usually built in isolated places and were rich with money and precious objects.

## **Legacy**

There are still aspects of life in modern England that date back to the Anglo-Saxons, including the English language, the rule of law, place names, Christianity and even the layout of England itself.

## **Everyday life**

Anglo-Saxon society had a hierarchy, with a king at the top. Landowners, called thegns, were below the king and peasant farmers worked on the thegn's land. Slaves were at the bottom of the hierarchy. Most Anglo-Saxons were farmers or craftspeople. They lived in homes made from wood or wattle and daub, with a single room and central fireplace. Settlements were surrounded by high fences to protect animals and villages from thieves and attack.

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## Invasion

The Jutes realised that the land in England was good for farming, so they, along with the Angles and Saxons, invaded England.

The Vikings arrived on boats and fought in battles for land.



## Legacy

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## Settlement

The Anglo-Saxons invaded the east and south coasts of England. They split England into seven kingdoms. By AD 800, there were five main kingdoms: East Anglia, Kent, Mercia, Northumbria and Wessex.

Celtic Britons still lived in Wales, Cornwall, Scotland and Ireland. They built homes, churches, farmed and lived here in Britain. They created settlements in Britain.