

The Anglo-Saxons were a group of peoples from northern Europe. They settled in Britain in the 5th century and finally united to form a single nation: England (Angleland).

In 410 AD the Romans left Britain. Then the Anglo-Saxons began to settle there. They pushed the Celtic Britons back into Cornwall and Wales and established seven kingdoms: Essex, Wessex, Sussex (the ending -sex comes from the word Saxon), Mercia, East Anglia, Northumbria, and Kent. There were many wars between those kingdoms.



An Anglo-Saxon King and his advisors.

The Anglo-Saxons were farmers, craftspeople and traders. They lived on farms and in small villages. They kept sheep, cattle and pigs. They hunted deers and wild birds. They fished.

people (pl.): men, women, children
peoples (pl.): ethnic groups
to settle: to remain, to stay
a century: a hundred years
to establish: to create, set up
finally: in the end
craftspeople: skilled workers
cattle: cows
deer: hoofed grazing animal
gown: a dress
to fasten: to affix, to bind
brooch: pin
tunic: a long blouse
cloak: a loose outer clothing without sleeves
raid: a surprise attack on an enemy
to convert: to change, to baptize
monastery: abbey, cloister
to defeat: to win a victory over
to rule: to control, to reign
successor: who follows
to conquer: to put down by force

Anglo-Saxon women wore long gowns fastened at the shoulders with brooches. Men wore short tunics over leggings. In winter they wore cloaks. They were skilled metalworkers and they also produced some fine jewellery. In 597 the Pope sent Augustine, a Roman monk, to convert the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity.

Viking raids began in the late 8th century, primarily on monasteries. The first raided monastery was at Lindisfarne off the northeast coast. In the 9th century, the British Isles were invaded by the Vikings from Denmark. They defeated all the Anglo-Saxon Kings except Alfred, King of Wessex. England was divided into two. The Vikings ruled the north and east. King Alfred ruled the south and west.

Alfred's successors reconquered the lands to the north and east. They established the kingdom of England until the Norman invasion in 1066.

Did the Anglo-Saxons in the Middle Ages know it?

cattle	internet	monks	horses	firearms
iron	gold	beer	tea	books
jewellery	coins	credit cards	shoes	umbrellas
potatoes	apples	bananas	watches	dogs
South America	sheep	kings	cigarettes	toothbrush
leggings	cloak	bacon	eggs	sugar
honey	milk	coffee	farmhouses	monasteries