

Who were the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings and why did they struggle for the control of the Kingdom of England?

Type of History



Social



Religious



Economic



Political

Golden Thread Concepts

Religion Beliefs

Economy Trade Agriculture

Conflict Power Invasion Conquer

Leadership Monarchy Governance Kingdom Law Hierarchy Parliament

Society Peasantry Class systems Settlement Migration Culture Legacies Achievements Exploration

Secondary Concepts



Historical significance



Similarity and difference



Cause and consequence



Continuity and change

When?



9500-4000 BCE
Human occupation of Britain began (Stone Age)



2300-800 BCE
Bronze Age Britain



1200-323 BCE
Ancient Greece



800 BCE - 50 CE
Iron Age Britain



753 BCE - 476 CE
Roman Empire



c. 410 CE
Roman rule ended in Britain



c. 449 CE
Anglo-Saxon invasion of Britain



c. 556 CE
Seven kingdoms created in England (the Heptarchy)



793 CE
Viking invasion of Britain



886 CE
Alfred the Great is King of Wessex



878 CE
Creation of the Danelaw



927 CE
King Athelstan became first king of a united England



1016 CE
King Cnut became King of England

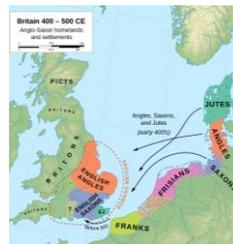


1066 CE
Battle of Hastings William the Conqueror is crowned king

Key Vocabulary

Danelaw	The area of England belonging to the Vikings
Heptarchy	A state divided into seven regions, each with its own ruler
Invader	Someone who enters by force in order to conquer
Kingdom	A country whose ruler is a king or queen
Pagan	Worship more than one god (polytheistic)
Raider	A person who enters a place in order to steal something

Where?



Anglo-Saxon invasion



Anglo-Saxon heptarchy



Viking invasion



Viking (Danelaw) and Anglo-Saxon territory

Who?



Alfred the Great



King Athelstan



Cnut



Edward the Confessor



William the Conqueror

What?



When Roman rule ended in Britain, Britons were defenseless against attacks from different groups of people. The Picts, Scots, Angles and Saxons saw it as an opportunity to invade. Vortigern became King of the Britons and asked two brothers from Jutland to help defend England against the Picts and Scots in exchange for land. The Anglo-Saxons soon began to settle in England.



The Vikings came from Denmark, Norway and Sweden. They began raiding British monasteries in 793 CE. In 865 CE an army was raised to conquer England. The Anglo-Saxons called them 'The Great Heathen Army'. The Vikings invaded for many reasons including overcrowding and poor farmland in their homelands.



Both the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings began to convert from Paganism to Christianity when they settled in England. They both lived in similar housing made from wood and earth. Both groups has similar societal structures with a hierarchical structure. They were both skilled farmers and warriors. The Vikings were also very good sailors and navigators.



The Anglo-Saxons controlled England through its heptarchy. When the Vikings invaded they defeated all of the kingdoms other than Wessex. Alfred the Great negotiated a peace settlement with the Vikings and established the Danelaw. His grandson later conquered this land and became king of a united England. Vikings gained control of England in 1013 CE. After the last Viking king died, the throne went to Edward the Confessor and then William the Conqueror.



Political struggles relate to the control of people and lands. Economic struggles related to money and trade. Some struggles are both political and economic, especially when they link to power. An example of this is when Alfred the Great raised taxes to create a better army, strong defenses and an improved navy to protect his kingdom from Viking invasion.



When the Vikings first came to Britain they were raiders. By 865 CE they became invaders and by 878 CE they had become settlers. The Anglo-Saxons first raided Roman Britain. They invaded when they left then settled to make it their own land. Both groups were pagan when they came to England but most converted to Christianity over time.



There are three main Anglo-Saxon sources that have survived until the present day; the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle and the writings of Gildas and Bede. We also know about the Anglo-Saxons because of artefacts that have been excavated by archaeologists such as jewellery, tools, weapons and pottery. Archaeology also provides physical evidence of Viking conquests, settlement and daily life. Few reliable written Viking sources survive.



Anglo-Saxon achievements included them giving us the idea of England as a single country. They also produced great literature and poetry. Their monks recorded important historical events in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. The Vikings explored extensively and pioneered revolutionary boat designs. They set up successful trade routes across the world.