



Knowing More Remembering More Learning More

## Invaders and Settlers

### Key facts

#### VIKINGS

##### Invasion

The Vikings first visited England in AD 789, when they sailed from Norway to the Isle of Portland on the south coast and killed the reeve, who had greeted them on the shore. However, their first major raid was four years later, on the **monastery** at **Lindisfarne**.

##### Viking raid on Lindisfarne

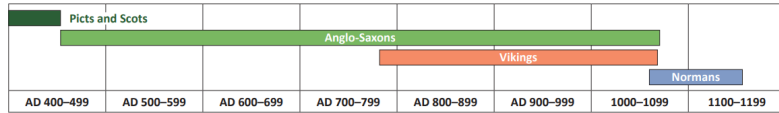
In AD 793, the Vikings arrived on **Lindisfarne** and **destroyed** the **monastery** buildings, **stole** precious objects, **killed** and **injured** the **monks** and took some as **slaves**. The Christian world was shocked by this raid on a remote monastery and monks wrote about the attack.

##### **Alfred the Great**

Alfred the Great was the King of Wessex from AD 871–899. He defeated the Viking leader, Guthrum, at the Battle of Edington in AD 876. He made peace with Guthrum and insisted that he was baptised as a Christian. Alfred the Great split England into Viking Danelaw and Anglo-Saxon Wessex.



## Key Facts



Timeline showing the periods of invasion and settlement in Britain from AD 410-1199

After the **Romans** left Britannia in **AD 410**, many towns fell into disrepair and the country became **vulnerable** to **attack**. This marked the beginning of a period of **invasions** from different groups: **Picts and Scots** from Scotland and Ireland; **Anglo-Saxons** from Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark; **Vikings** from Scandinavia and Normans from France. This time in history is called **the early Middle Ages**.

### ANGLO-SAXONS

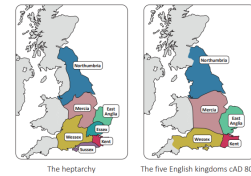
#### Invasion

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.



### Key Vocabulary

- Christianity:** A religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- Conquer:** Overcome and take control of a place or people.
- Danegeld:** A tax collected from the Anglo-Saxon people paid to the Viking invaders in exchange for peace.
- Invasion:** When a foreign army enters a country by force.
- Monastery:** A building where monks live, work, study and pray, separate from the outside world.
- Monk:** A member of a male religious community who lives in a monastery.
- Pagan:** A person who believes in many gods or does not follow one of the world's major religions.
- Raid:** A sudden attack which aims to cause damage.

## Test Yourself

- What does it mean to invade?
- What does it mean to settle?
- When did the Vikings visit England?
- When was their first major raid?
- When did Picts and Scots try to invade England?
- Why did the Picts and Scots invade England?
- What were the names of the kingdoms that were created?