

Anglo-Saxons

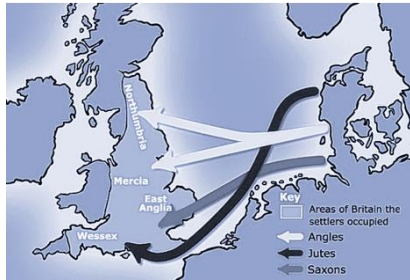


Quick summary

The Anglo-Saxons were the descendants of three different tribes who invaded Britain after the Roman army left Britain in 410 CE and controlled much of England for 600 years. The Angles and the Saxons came from what is now Northern Germany and the Jutes came from Denmark. The land they conquered was split into small kingdoms and the new invaders brought their own building methods, religious beliefs and language. played a significant role in the Christianisation of England by Saint Augustine of Canterbury, produced great works of art and literature like the epic poem Beowulf and were skilled craft and metalworkers. They are the source of some of England's most important archaeological discoveries, which have allowed historians to find out about life in the period also known as the Middle Ages.



Location



Beliefs

The Anglo-Saxons played a significant part in England's journey to becoming a Christian country. Some Celtic people had adopted the religion under Roman rule, but the Anglo-Saxons arrived in England in the early fifth century with their own sets of pagan beliefs. In 597, Saint Augustine of Canterbury arrived from Rome (which had been Christian since the fourth century CE) and started to convert the Anglo-Saxon kings and their people.



Main events

- 410:** Roman army left Britain
- 597:** St Augustine brought Christianity to Britain from Rome
- 601:** King Ethelbert of Kent converted to Christianity
- 793:** Monastery at Lindisfarne raided by Vikings
- 927:** Kingdom of England created



Artefacts

One of the most important archaeological sites from the Anglo-Saxon era is the burial site at Sutton-Hoo in East Anglia. Sutton-Hoo is a traditional ship burial site, where a great king was buried. It was found to contain weapons, gold, jewellery and one of the most famous artefacts from the time, the Sutton-Hoo helmet. Lots of our knowledge about the Anglo-Saxons comes from the first-hand evidence found at this site, which has helped historians explain the complex nature of society at that time.



Culture and pastimes

The Anglo-Saxons wrote some of England's earliest works of literature. Beowulf gives examples of the importance of truth, bravery, honour, loyalty and duty, hospitality and perseverance. These values were all essential to Anglo-Saxon people and were a part of society and everyday life.



Vocabulary

- chaos** - confusion
- Christianisation** – conversion to Christianity
- conquered** – took control of by force
- descendants** – relatives from later generations
- legacy** - something left behind after death
- literature** - written work, especially of artistic value
- medieval** - the period of European history between 476 CE and 1500 CE
- pagan** - relating to religious beliefs other than those of the main world religions



Settlements



Beliefs



Culture and pastimes



Location



Main events



Food and farming



Travel and exploration



Conflict



Society



Artefacts

