



Anglo-Saxons



England (Europe)

Timeline									
410	497	575	586	597	757	793	871	1016	1066
Romans left Britain leaving it unguarded	The kingdom of Wessex is formed	The kingdom of East Anglia was formed	The Kingdom of Mercia is formed	St Augustine introduces Christianity	Offa King of Mercia declares himself King of England	Vikings attack Lindisfarne	Alfred the Great rules	Canute the Great rules as first Viking	Battle of Hastings Normans defeat the Saxons

Key Vocabulary	
Bayeux Tapestry	70m long embroidered cloth depicting the events leading up to the Norman conquest.
Lindisfarne	A monastery in northern England where Vikings first landed and attacked from Scandinavia.
Sutton Hoo helmet	A decorated Anglo-Saxon bronze helmet excavated in 1939 buried around 625.

Famous Figures

King Offa (c730-796)

King of Mercia, and of most of England in the mid-8th Century. Historians regard him as the most powerful Anglo-Saxon king until Alfred the Great.

King Alfred the Great (849-899)

Fought the Vikings and defeated them in the Battle of Edington (878) and thus made an agreement with them (Danelaw). He was known for improving the standard of living, legal and military systems as well as education.

General Knowledge

Where did the Anglo-Saxons come from?

The Romans left Britain in 410 due to fierce tribes attacking Italy and every soldier was needed back at home to defend the country. Without an army of its own, it left the country vulnerable to attackers. The Anglo-Saxons came from Denmark, Netherlands and northern Germany across the North Sea in wooden boats. They conquered England but failed to conquer Scotland, Wales and Cornwall (an area of south-west England).

The Vikings

The Anglo-Saxons were under constant attack from Vikings who travelled from Scandinavia and invaded towns and villages in Wales, Scotland, England and the Isle of Man, finally conquering York (Jorvik) in 866. They finally defeated the Anglo-Saxons as the Normans (Norsemen) from Normandy (France) invaded and won the Battle of Hastings in 1066. The Normans in France were originally Vikings from Scandinavia!



The Vikings



Lindisfarne (England)



Danelaw (England)

Timeline								
700	789	793	865	866	876	886	1014	1066
The Viking Age begins	First recorded Viking attack	Viking raid on Lindisfarne	Viking army from Denmark invades England	Danes capture York (Jorvik)	Vikings from Denmark, Sweden and Norway settle permanently in England	King Alfred defeats the Vikings / Allows them to settle in East England	King Canute (Cnut) of Denmark King of England	Battle of Hastings / William I King of England

Key Vocabulary

Danelaw	An area of land ruled by the Vikings where they settled from York down to the east of England.
helmet	Helmets were made from iron with a bowl and nose guard and leather within. They did not have horns!
long boat	Long, narrow ships that could travel fast, in shallow waters for incredibly long distances.
shield	Wooden, circular and painted (often red and white). Often their only defence (armour was expensive).
Valhalla	Brave warriors were believed to go to Valhalla in the afterlife – a great hall, feasting alongside Odin.

Fun Fact

Berserkers believed that Odin, the god of war, gave them superhuman powers and that they didn't need to wear battle armour for protection.

General Knowledge

Invaders

The Vikings wanted new land because the places where they came from in Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden and Denmark), it was hard to grow crops, which meant there was a food shortage as the population got bigger. Britain and Europe had plenty of good farmland, so the Vikings tried to claim the land.

Viking Warriors

They fought using long swords and axes. A good sword was handed down from father to son, but Vikings also buried weapons with their owner when he died. They did not wear much armour. Some chieftains wore chain mail coats, but most relied on a round wooden shield for protection.

Some Viking warriors went into battle wearing wolf or bear skins. These warriors were called 'berserkers' because they went 'berserk' (out of control) and charged fearlessly into battle.

Famous Figures

Eric Bloodaxe (885-954)

Eric Bloodaxe was king of the Viking kingdom of Jorvik between 947-948 and 952-954. Jorvik was a large Viking kingdom around York. He was the last King of York who was driven out in 954. The Vikings in England then agreed to be ruled by the king of England rather than having their own king.

King Canute (990-1035)

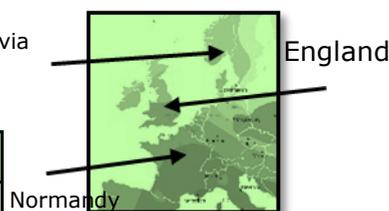
Canute was the first Viking king of England, ruling from 1016-1035. He won a battle against Edmund II that divided their kingdoms, but when Edmund died Canute ruled both kingdoms. His sons, Harold Harefoot and then Hardicanute, ruled until 1042.

Harald Hardrada (c.1015-1066)

Harald Hardrada was the king of Norway. He led Viking armies into England but was defeated at the Battle of Stamford Bridge in York by King Harold II.



The Normans



Timeline

January 1066	September 1066	October 1066	December 1066
Edward the Confessor dies and Harold II becomes king	Battle of Stamford Bridge between Anglo-Saxons and Vikings	King Harold killed in Battle of Hastings making William of Normandy king	William the Conqueror crowned at Westminster Abbey as King William I

General Knowledge

Who Were the Normans?

The Normans that invaded England in 1066 came from Normandy in Northern France. They were originally Vikings from Scandinavia who terrorized European coastlines with raids and plundering. French King, Charles the Simple, had given some land in the North of France to a Viking chief named Rollo. He hoped by giving the Vikings their own land in France they would stop attacking other French regions. The land became known as Northmannia, the land of the Northmen. It was later shortened to Normandy.

The Bayeux Tapestry

Currently displayed in Normandy in France. this 70m long woollen yarn has 72 pictures of different events during the Norman invasion, and it was made in eight strips that were joined together. It begins with scenes about Anglo-Saxon King Edward the Confessor, and ends with the death of King Harold in the Battle of Hastings.

Knights and Soldiers

The invasion was so successful, largely because the Norman Knights were highly skilled. They rode on horseback and held a strong spear (lance) under their arms. Knights trained from a young age, started as pages, to squires and then to a Knight.

Key Vocabulary

chain mail	flexible armour consisting of small metal rings linked together
invasion	invading a country or region with an armed force
Witan	Edward the Confessor's advisers who wanted Harold to be king

Famous Figures

Three Possible Kings

The throne was not inherited but was given to someone powerful when Edward died. There were three possible kings hoping to be crowned.
Harold Godwinson - promised throne by English leaders
Harald Hardrada - thought his family had been promised the throne by a previous King.
William, Duke of Normandy - said that Edward has promised him the throne before he died.

Harold Godwinson defeated Harald Hardrada at the Battle of Stamford Bridge and heard news that William, Duke of Normandy, had invaded Southern England. Harold marched south and the two armies met near Hastings on 14th October 1066. William was victorious and was crowned King of England.

William, Duke of Normandy (c.1028-1087)

Usually known as William the Conqueror, he was the first Norman King of England after his invasion from Normandy in 1066.

Question 1. Who were the Anglo-Saxons under constant attack from?	Start of unit.	End of unit.
Romans		
Vikings		
Normans		

Question 2. When did the Vikings age begin?	Start of unit.	End of unit.
500AD		
600AD		
700AD		
800AD		

Question 3. Why did the Vikings want new land?	Start of unit.	End of unit.
To be the most powerful people in Europe.		
To use it for war.		
To use it to grow crops.		

Question 4. What did most Viking warriors go in to battle wearing?	Start of unit.	End of unit.
Wolf or bear skin.		
Chain mail.		
Their ordinary clothes and a wooden shield.		

Question 5. Where did the Normans come from?	Start of unit.	End of unit.
France		
Scandinavia		
England		
Germany		

Question 6. Who did William defeat at the Battle of Hastings?	Start of unit.	End of unit.
Edward the Confessor		
Harald Hardrada		
Eric Bloodaxe		
Harold Godwinson		

Question 7. When was the Battle of Hastings?	Start of unit.	End of unit.
410AD		
793AD		
1066AD		
1084AD		

Question 8. On What depicts the events leading up to the Battle of Hastings?	Start of unit.	End of unit.
Viking long ship		
Bayeux Tapestry		
Magna Carter		