

Who were the Anglo-Saxons and Scots? How did they influence our lives today?

Subject Specific Vocabulary	
archaeologist	People who discover our history by looking at artefacts that have been found.
Anglo-Saxon kingdoms	The Anglo-Saxons formed many regions each with one ruler, known as kingdoms.
shires	Saxon lands were divided into shires, which helped to make up the counties we have today.
shire reeve	The peace officer of a shire, later known as 'sheriff'.
thane	An important Anglo-Saxon person.
legacy	Anglo-Saxons left a legacy which included the language we speak, culture and politics. Many of the shires are our boundaries for counties today.
wergild	A fine imposed for stealing or killing.
churl	A lower-class Anglo-Saxon but better than a slave.
Wessex	Known today as Dorset, Hampshire, Somerset and Wiltshire.
Witan or witenagemot	A council that helped the Saxon king rule.
Mercia	Known today as East Anglia, Essex, Kent and Sussex.



Sticky Knowledge about the Anglo-Saxons

- In the AD400s, towards the end of the Roman rule, Britain was being attacked by the Picts and Scots from the north, and the Anglo-Saxons from the sea. The Romans had built forts along the coast to fight off the sea-raiders and Hadrian's wall defended the north. Things were changing, and in about AD410, the last Roman soldiers were ordered to leave.
- The Anglo-Saxons were made up of three tribes: the Angles, Saxons and Jutes.
- The name 'Angles' eventually became 'English' and their land, 'Angle-land', became 'England'.
- For a long time, England was not one country. Anglo-Saxon kings ruled lots of small kingdoms across the land. Over time, the Anglo-Saxons took control of most of Britain.
- The Anglo-Saxons were fierce people who fought many battles, including fighting each other. The Anglo-Saxon period ended when the Normans conquered Britain in 1066.

Exciting Books



Historical Skills

- Explain the chronology of where the Anglo-Saxons fit into British history and relate to other periods studied.
- Use atlases and maps to identify where the Angles, Saxons and Jutes came from and settled.
- Compare the lifestyles within settlements e.g. the role of the shire reeve compared to the role of the slave.
- Explain how Anglo-Saxons adapted fighting techniques to maintain land from invaders.
- Analyse the relationship between the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons.
- Explain the Anglo-Saxon legacy on British culture.

