



Summary

The Anglo-Saxons were people who existed in early medieval England from the fall of the Roman Empire (c.410 AD) through to the Norman Conquest of 1066. As a people, they were a tapestry of cultures and backgrounds; Celts, Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Britons...the list continues the closer you research. Unfortunately, these people are often overlooked due to their place in our historic timeline. Their period, similarly to the wider medieval period, is often viewed as the 'Dark Ages' which grossly misrepresents the multi-faceted brilliance of the Anglo-Saxons. In just over half a century, England is transformed from a distant colony of the Roman Empire into a series of powerful Kingdoms capable of waging war internally and externally.

Key Figures

Emperor Honorius	Honorius was Roman Emperor from 393 to 423. He is famous for sending the 'farewell' letter to England when the Romans vacated the island.
Columba, Augustine, and Aidan	These three men, combined, helped to bring Christianity to England through their missionary work in Scotland, Northumbria, and Kent.
Alfred the Great	Alfred was King of the West Saxons from 871 to 886, and King of the Anglo-Saxons from 886 until his death in 899. He is renowned for bringing about the 'Danelaw' in England; a separation of the island between Anglo-Saxons and Vikings.

Other Resources

[What was life like in Anglo-Saxon England? - The Anglo Saxons - KS3 History - homework help for year 7, 8 and 9. - BBC Bitesize](#)

410AD: Fall of the Western Roman Empire	563: Columba's mission to Scotland.	597: Augustine's mission to Kent.	635: Aidan's mission to Northumbria.	793: Viking raid on Lindisfarne; the first of many to come!	865: Viking conquest of York, 'Jorvik'.	871: Alfred became King of the West Saxons.	878: The Battle of Eddington & creation of 'Danelaw'.
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Key Vocabulary

Century	a period of one hundred years.
Conquer	overcome and take control of (a place or people) by military force.
Migration	movement of people to a new area or country in order to find work or better living conditions.
Polytheism	the belief in or worship of more than one god.
Monotheism	the doctrine or belief that there is only one God.
Pagan	a person holding religious beliefs other than those of the main world religions.
Pillaging	rob a (place) using violence.
Lindisfarne	A tidal island off the northeast coast of England that was raided in 793.
Navigator	a person who explores by sea .
Roman Empire	the empire established by Augustus in 27BC that came to envelope large areas of the later-ancient, and early medieval world.
Primary source	A written, or material object from the period of time being studied. They are used to help Historians gain an insight into a specific historic time, event, or person.

Challenge

Who were the Anglo-Saxons? (You should be able to answer this from your class work!)

How can historians work out what Anglo-Saxons thought, said, or believed?

