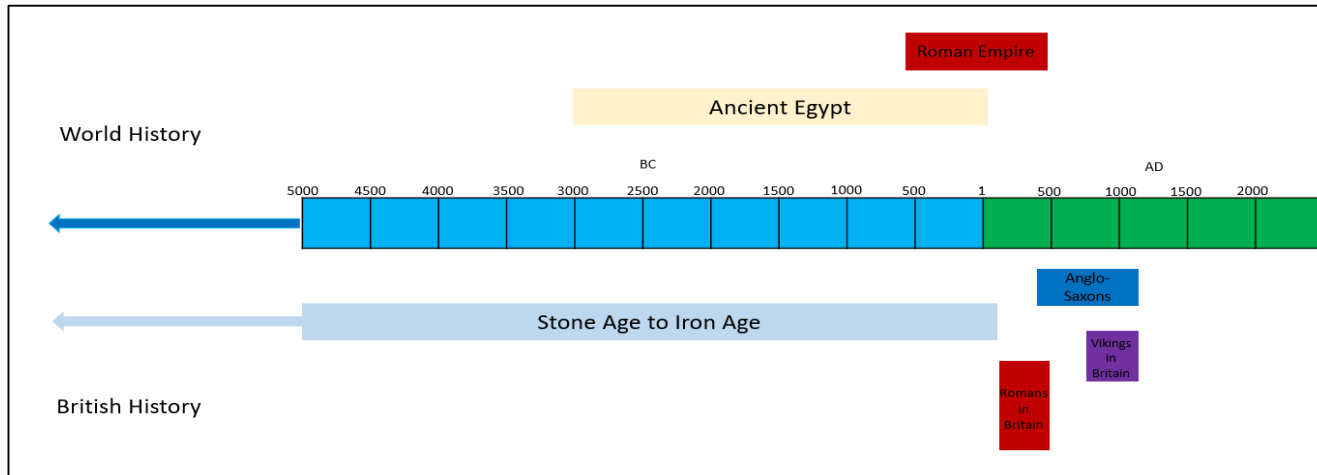
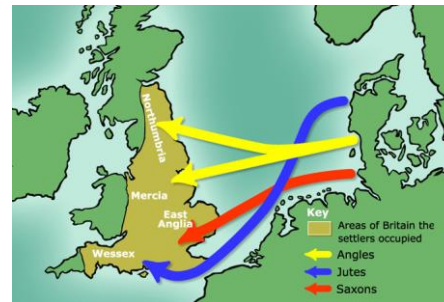


How did England change during the settlement of the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings?



The fall of the Roman Empire in 410 AD left England unprotected which led to the **Angles, Saxons and Jutes** invading from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. These invaders settled in England and we know them as the **Anglo-Saxons**.


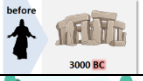


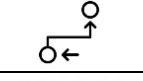


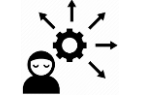

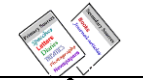

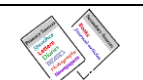


From the 5th century up until 927 CE, England was not a united country like today and instead it was **separated into many kingdoms**. Historians refer to the **seven largest kingdoms** as the **'heptarchy'**.

Each kingdom had its **own king** and they would often fight between each other. Sometimes the people who lived in the kingdom would rebel against the king's power. So, being in complete control of an Anglo-Saxon kingdom required power, influence, and lots of money!

Not much is known about the fall of the Roman Empire leading into the early Anglo-Saxon period, as not many people wrote about it. However, most of the written information from this period comes from two monks, **Gildas** who wrote in the 6th century and **Bede**, who wrote in the 8th century.

Topic Vocabulary	Definition
Aristocracy	a group of people, usually of noble birth, who rule over others
Barbarian	A person from one culture that is believed by those of another to be savage or not civilised
Capital	the city where the government is located
Empire	Group of nations under one ruler or government
Hostile	unfriendly
Invasion	an act of invading by an enemy
Kingdom	a region that is ruled by a king or queen
Migration	the act of moving across lands to settle
Monk	a man who joined a religious community to live a life devoted to god
Pillage	to take things off people during a war or raid
Priory	A religious house where monks live
Raid	a sudden, surprise attack
Rebellion	An armed fight against a government
Settlement	the act of settling to live in a place
Tribe	a group of people, families, or villages that share the same language, customs and ancestors

History Vocabulary		Definition
AD		Anno Domini (In the year of our Lord) – a year after Jesus was born
BC		Before Christ – events before the year Jesus was born
Archaeologist		Someone who studies buildings, graves, tools and other objects of people who lived in the past
Artefacts		An object made by a person that is historically interesting
Cause		The reason why something happens
Century		100 years
Chronology		The order in which a series of events happened
Consequence		The result of something that has happened
Era		A period of time for a group of related events or people
Primary source		First-hand account from people with a direct connection to an event
Reliable evidence		Information from a source you can trust
Secondary source		A second-hand account of history using a primary source. It may not be from that particular time.

The **Vikings** were famous for being ruthless warriors and astute traders. They set sail in **longboats** from their homes in **Norway, Sweden and Denmark**, and raided and traded across Europe. For Viking warriors, honour and glory in battle lasted forever. Warriors who died bravely were believed to go to **Valhalla**, the **Viking heaven**. This belief made them extremely tough, fearless opponents. Viking raids on the coastline were very common in the 700s and people were constantly worried about being attacked.



In **793 CE**, a small island (known as Holy Island) off the coast of **Northumbria** was home to **Lindisfarne priory** – a **Christian settlement of monks**. The priory held many great treasures like **gold goblets** and **silver crosses**. It became the target of a **Viking raid** because it was not protected by soldiers as only monks and villagers lived there.

Over the next hundred years, the Anglo-Saxons in Wessex and Mercia fought together to drive back the Danelaw regions and by **927 CE**, **King Aethelstan** had conquered the city of **York** and all of **Northumbria**, finally uniting all of England.

This makes Aethelstan the **first king of England**.



The Vikings' overwhelming strength and power controlled most of Britain by the **end of the 9th century**, even though kings like **Alfred the Great** tried to defeat them.

The land they controlled was named the **Danelaw** because the rules of these lands came from the **Danish** (Danes) and **Norse** overlords who had settled from **Scandinavia**. Living as an Anglo-Saxon under the Danelaw was very difficult because the lives of Anglo-Saxons were considered less than that of the Dane/Norse people. This all changed after King Alfred the Great made a treaty with the invaders saying that the lives of both the Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavians would be treated as equal.

