

Invaders & Settlers

The Romans



In AD43, the Romans first invaded Britain. This signified the end of the Iron Age.

Any territory conquered by the Romans was raised to the status of a Roman province.

After they were gone, the Romans left their mark all over the country. They gave us a new religion and ways of reading and counting. Even the word 'Britain' came from the Romans.

Britain had no proper roads before the Romans. The Romans made all their roads as straight as possible. They built their roads on foundations of clay, chalk and gravel. They laid bigger flat stones on top. Roman roads bulged in the middle and had ditches either side, to help the rainwater drain off.



The Romans introduced the idea of living in big towns and cities. Roman towns were laid out in a grid. Streets criss-crossed the town to form blocks called 'insulae'. In the middle was the 'forum', a big market square where people came to trade. If a place-name has 'chester', 'caster' or 'cester' in it, it's almost certainly Roman. London was a Roman city too, although they called it 'Londinium'.



Of all the Roman remains in Britain, Hadrian's Wall is probably the most famous. In AD122, the Emperor Hadrian ordered his soldiers to build a wall between Roman Britain and Scotland. It ran for 73 miles.

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The Anglo-Saxons

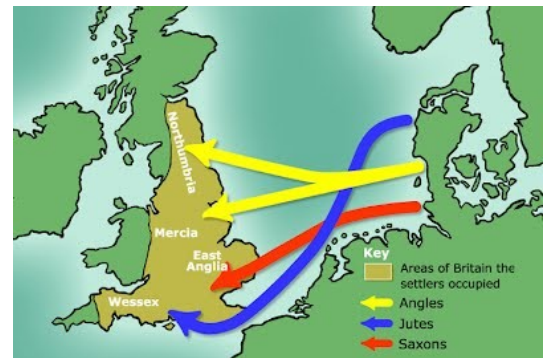


In AD450, the Anglo-Saxons had started to settle in Britain.

By AD500, the Anglo-Saxons had created seven kingdoms. The way the kingdoms were divided led to the creation of some of our county boundaries today.

The Anglo-Saxons attempted to bring about law and order into the country. Anglo-Saxons ruled for about three centuries, and during this time they formed the basis for the English monarch and laws.

The Anglo-Saxons were made up of three tribes who came to England from across the North Sea: the Angles, Saxons and Jutes.

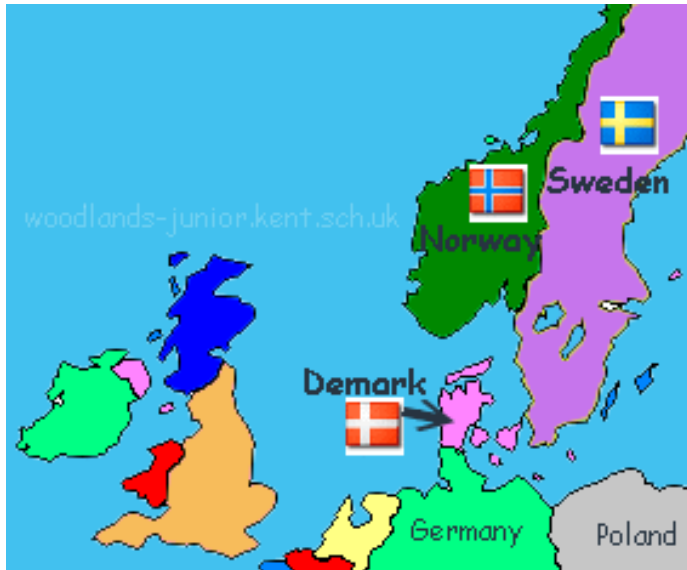


Some of our modern English words, such as the days of the week, come from the Anglo-Saxons: Monday = Monandoege.

Anglo-Saxons lived in small villages near rivers, forests and other important resources that gave them everything they needed to care for farm animals, grow crops and make things to sell.

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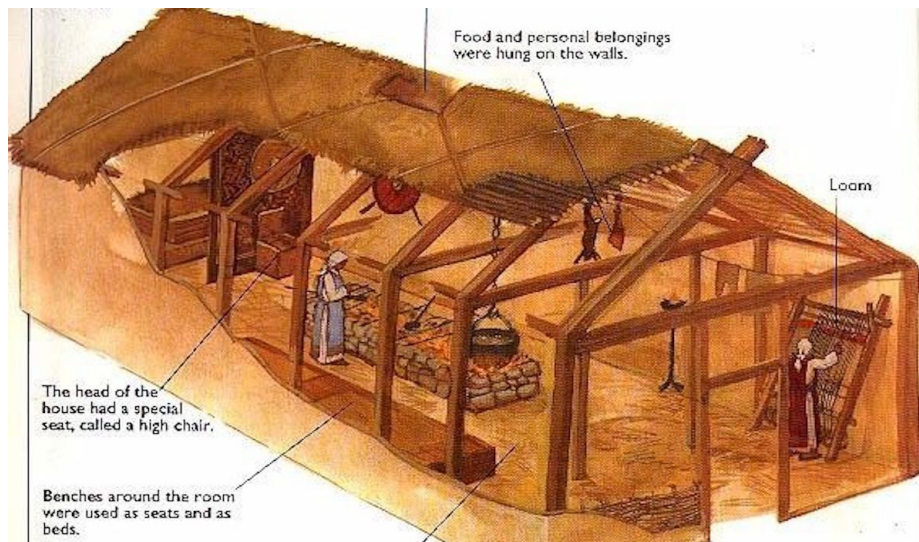
The Vikings



In AD789, the Vikings invaded Britain. Their rule lasted until AD1066.

The Vikings' homeland was Scandinavia (modern-day Norway, Sweden and Denmark).

Many Viking families lived together in a longhouse. This was built from wood or stone and had a thatched or turf roof on top.



The names for the days of the week come mainly from Norse Gods.

Tuesday = Tiw or Tyr

Wednesday = Woden (Odin)

Thursday = Thor