

History: The Scots, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings

What was the consequence of Viking settlement in Britain for the Anglo-Saxons?

Year 5: Autumn Term 1&2

The Anglo-Saxons came to England after the Romans left in the year 410. Original settlements were small communities that then developed into seven main kingdoms by the middle of the 6th Century. This was called a **Heptarchy** and the kingdoms were Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Essex, Sussex, Wessex and Kent.



Key Vocabulary	Definition
conquer	To take control of (a country or city) through the use of force
consequence	Something that happens as a result of a particular action
Danelaw	An area of England under the control of the Vikings
heathen	A person who is not religious
Heptarchy	The seven Anglo-Saxon kingdoms
immigration	To come to a country to live there
Norse	The language of ancient Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Iceland
outlaw	A person who has broken the law and who is hiding or running away to avoid punishment
raids	A surprise attack on an enemy
treaty	An official agreement that is made between two or more countries or groups

Key Information

Viking Invasion, Law and Order

Viking warriors attacked/raided the Christian monasteries along the eastern coast of Britain, including in 793 CE, Lindisfarne. The Vikings found the monasteries easy pickings as the monks had no weapons. It was not long before Viking farmers **immigrated** to Britain and settled along the eastern coast. The Vikings renamed this area **Danelaw**. They also settled along the western coast of Scotland and Ireland. The tribes who already lived in Britain did not welcome the Viking settlers. Battles between various Vikings and Anglo-Saxon tribes and clans were constantly breaking out.

Viking society was built on law and order. In fact the word "law" comes from Old **Norse**. The **Norse** people had their own laws. The Vikings did not have a central government so each **Norse** village was run by a village chief or king, assisted by a council. There was also an assembly composed of all freemen in the village, who made laws and voted on the outcome of a trial. The community would gather together at a meeting called a 'Thing'. Here they would settle problems and make decisions. Viking laws were not written down, so laws were passed from person to person by word of mouth. People who broke the law became **outlaws**. They were forced to live in the wilderness and anyone was allowed to hunt them down and kill them. Vikings could also settle arguments with a fight. They held a type of duel, known as a Holmgang. Whoever won the duel was seen as being favoured by the gods.

Significant Individuals

Alfred the Great

King Alfred, was called 'the Great' because he:

- defeated the Vikings in the Battle of Edington in 878, then converted their leader Guthrum to Christianity;
- recaptured London from the Vikings and established a boundary between the Saxons and the Vikings - the area ruled by the Vikings was known as the **Danelaw**;
- strengthened his kingdom's defences by creating a series of fortresses (burhs) and a decent army;
- built ships against Viking sea attacks, so beginning the English navy and
- had books translated into English and promoted learning.

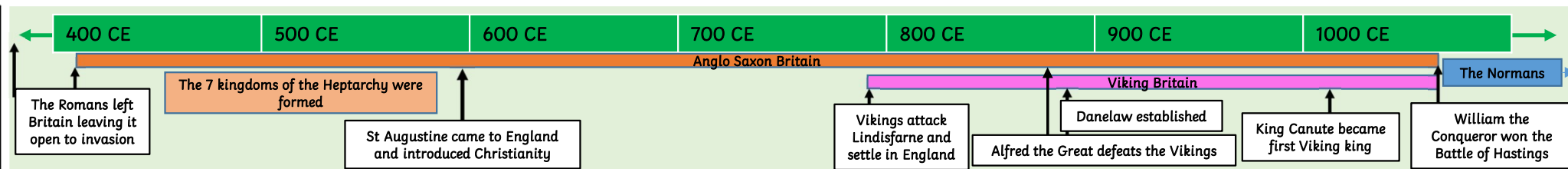
St Augustine

Anglo-Saxons once worshipped lots of different gods that they believed controlled all areas of life, but around the 7th century many converted to Christianity after the arrival of the missionary St. Augustine from Rome.

Augustine was sent from Rome to England to bring Christianity to the Anglo-Saxons. He would ultimately become the first Archbishop of Canterbury, establish one of medieval England's most important abbeys (St Augustine in Canterbury), and kickstart the country's conversion to Christianity.



Timeline



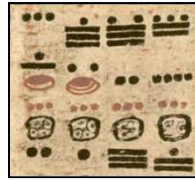
History: The Maya

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Maya Maths - Maya mathematics was highly **advanced**. The Maya counting system required only three symbols: a dot representing a value of one, a bar representing five, and a shell representing zero. These three symbols were used in various combinations, and so that even uneducated people could do the simple arithmetic needed for trade. Numbers were written from bottom to top, rather than horizontally.



Key Vocabulary	Definition
advanced	Having developed more than others
caste system	A type of social structure which divides people on the basis of their inherited social status
Chichen Itza	One of the most important city states built by the Maya people
deity	A god or goddess
human sacrifice	Killing a person to offer them to the gods as part of a religious ritual
offering	Given to the gods as a gift
pagan	Followers of an ancient religion that worshiped several gods
Pok-A-Tok	A fast-paced ball game played by the Maya
polytheistic	Believing in more than one god
social position	The position of a person in society

Key Information

Mayan Cities



Chichen Itza was the main Maya city-state, home to many famous structures: the Great Ball Court, Temple of the Warriors and El Castillo. Maya cities could be quite different in layout, but they generally contained a ceremonial centre where great pyramids, temples (built both for grandeur and as a route to the heavens above), palaces, and ballcourts were built. Each city was a centre of learning and religion and similar to the ancient Greek city-states, the Maya city-states often went to war with each other.

Maya Caste System

A **caste system** is a very rigid social system in which you are born into a social position and cannot leave that position. In a **caste system** you are required to marry within your own **caste**. The upper **caste** was made up of rulers, nobles and priests. The middle **caste** were businessmen, merchants and soldiers. The lower **caste** was made up of farmers and slaves. Occupations for Maya men was limited to their father's occupation but women could be involved in government, economics, and religion, as well as responsible for the home, and children.



Maya Religion and Beliefs

The ancient Maya, only had around a dozen or so gods and goddesses, who all wore several disguises and whose names changed through time, so two or three different names can be given to a **deity** depending on the time period. This often leads to people thinking there were many different Gods. Each God represented a different aspect of life. Communities made regular **offerings** to them. Maya religion influenced most areas of life. The Maya believed that life was a cycle and that people progressed through various stages before reaching 'the place of misty sky.' The King was believed to be a representative of the gods and priests were higher up in the **caste system**, highlighting the importance of religion in society.

