

Year 4 History — How hard was it to invade and settle in Britain?

claimant	A person who believes they are entitled to be the king or queen.
inference	A conclusion reached by using evidence.
invasion 🔑	A military attack in which an army uses force to take over another country.
kingdom	A part of England which was ruled by a king or queen.
missionary	A person sent to an area to promote Christianity.
oath	A solemn promise.
settlement 🔑	A place where a community of people live.
settlers	People who move to a new country and stay there permanently.
Viking raids	Attacks on Britain in which the Vikings landed to steal items.
Vikings	Seafaring people from Scandinavia who raided and invaded Britain.

Key vocabulary

Anglo-Saxon settlements

The Anglo-Saxons lived in single-roomed huts in villages. Houses were made out of wattle and daub and wood with a thatched roof. They had most things they needed: food, warmth and family. They left their villages only to trade with others for essential items.



Anglo-Saxon kingdoms

By AD 600, England was organised into five kingdoms: Northumbria, Mercia, Wessex, East Anglia and Kent. Each one was ruled by a king who made laws. Over time, Wessex became the most important kingdom and in AD 925, Aethlstan became the first king of England.



Christian missionaries

Columba, Aidan and Augustine were important Anglo-Saxon missionaries who arrived in Britain in the 6th and 7th centuries. Columba founded a monastery on the island of Iona and spread Christianity in Scotland. Aidan, from Iona, became a missionary in Northumbria, founding the monastery at Lindisfarne. Augustine was sent by the Pope to convert the Anglo-Saxons in Kent, establishing a church in Canterbury. Their work helped spread Christianity across Britain.



The Viking raids

The Vikings raided Britain to steal items to trade. Over time, they decided they wanted to stay and settled in parts of northern England. In AD 878, Alfred the Great defeated the Vikings at the Battle of Edington and made a deal to split the country in two: Danelaw (the Viking part) and Wessex (the Anglo-Saxon part). Athelstan ended the Vikings' invasion by defeating them at York in AD 927 and became the first Anglo-Saxon king of England.



Anglo-Saxon timeline

