

# Anglo-Saxon England

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The Anglo-Saxons were a group of tribes, primarily consisting of the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes, who migrated to and settled in Britain after the fall of the Roman Empire. They were a mix of Germanic peoples with their own distinct cultures and languages. Over time, they became the dominant ethnic and political group in England, and their language (Old English) and customs formed the foundation for English identity.

They originated from what is now modern-day Denmark, and the Netherlands. The Angles came from southern Denmark and the Saxons were from the northern part of Germany.

The invasion of Britain is generally believed to have begun in the mid-5th century, around the year 450 AD. This followed the withdrawal of Roman legions from Britain (around 410 AD). The Anglo-Saxons continued to migrate to Britain over several centuries, with major settlements occurring through the 6th and 7th centuries.

There were several factors that contributed to the Anglo-Saxon invasions:

- **Decline of the Roman Empire:** As the Roman Empire became weak in the 5th century, the Romans withdrew their military presence from Britain, leaving the region sensitive to attack.
- **Desire for Land and Resources:** The Anglo-Saxons were looking for fertile land and opportunities to expand. Britain offered a rich and fertile environment.
- **Instability in Europe:** The fall of the Western Roman Empire in the 5th century created instability in Europe, which likely pushed many groups, including the Anglo-Saxons, to seek new lands.



<https://www.history.org.uk/primary/resource/3865/anglo-saxons-a-brief-history>

The Anglo-Saxons initially began settling in Britain. Key regions where they settled included:

- **East England:** modern Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridgeshire
- **South England:** modern Hampshire, Wiltshire, and Dorset
- **Central England:** modern Midlands

As they settled, they formed various kingdoms, such as Wessex, Mercia, Northumbria, and East Anglia.

The Anglo-Saxon presence in Britain lasted for several centuries, from the 5th century until the Norman Conquest in 1066. The Anglo-Saxons ruled over much of England until the Battle of Hastings in 1066, when the Normans, led by William the Conqueror, defeated King Harold II and began their conquest of England. Although the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms were absorbed by Norman rule after 1066, elements of Anglo-Saxon culture persisted long after their political dominance ended.

In short, the Anglo-Saxons were a foundational part of British history, with their rule lasting from the 5th century until 1066.



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## Sources

Wikipedia, at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-Saxons> ,accessed 17 December 2024