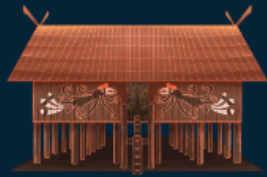


# INVASION



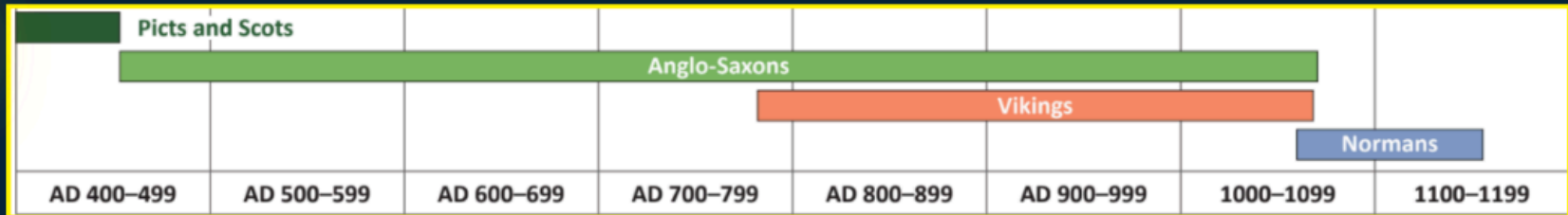
## ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND

After the Romans left Britain in 410 AD, many towns fell apart and the land was attacked by different groups. Some of the attackers were the Anglo-Saxons who came from Germany, the Netherlands, and Denmark. This time period is called the Early Middle Ages.

### Anglo-Saxon Society

Anglo-Saxon society had a **king** at the top. Below the king were landowners called **thegns**. **Peasant farmers** worked the land for the thegns. **Slaves** were at the bottom of society.

Most Anglo-Saxons were farmers or craftspeople. They lived in simple homes with one room and a fireplace. Villages were surrounded by fences for protection.



## VIKINGS ARRIVE!

The Vikings first visited England in 789 AD, when they sailed from Norway to the south coast and raided a monastery. Over the next 60 years, Vikings continued to raid England in the summer and return to Scandinavia in the winter.



### Defeating the Vikings

Some Anglo-Saxon kings paid the Vikings money, called Danegeld, to leave. However, the Vikings kept coming back for more money. In 871 AD, King Alfred the Great became king of Wessex. He defeated the Viking leader Guthrum at the Battle of Edington in 876 AD. King Alfred made peace with Guthrum and even insisted he convert to Christianity. He also split England into Viking Danelaw and Anglo-Saxon Wessex.

### Viking Life

Vikings lived in a similar way to the Anglo-Saxons. Most Vikings were farmers or craftspeople. Men and boys trained in fighting, boat building, and weapon making. They lived in longhouses with thatched roofs and a central fire. Vikings were pagans at first, but eventually converted to Christianity.

## Glossary

<b>Christianity</b>	A religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ.
<b>conquer</b>	Overcome and take control of a place or people.
<b>Danegeld</b>	A tax collected from the Anglo-Saxon people paid to the Viking invaders in exchange for peace.
<b>invasion</b>	When a foreign army enters a country by force.
<b>monastery</b>	A building where monks live, work, study and pray, separate from the outside world.
<b>monk</b>	A member of a male religious community who lives in a monastery.
<b>pagan</b>	A person who believes in many gods, or does not follow one of the world's major religions.
<b>raid</b>	A sudden attack, which aims to cause damage.
<b>reeve</b>	A local official in Anglo-Saxon England.
<b>Scandinavia</b>	An area of Europe, which includes Sweden, Norway and Denmark.
<b>wattle and daub</b>	A traditional building material made from woven twigs or sticks and mud.