



410AD

Tribes invaded Britain: the Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Franks and Frisians. The two largest tribes were the Angles and Saxons.

540AD

Gildas, a British historian, wrote a book called 'On the ruin and conquest of Britain' which criticises the actions of the Anglo-Saxon kings.

597AD

Pope Gregory sent the monk Augustine to Britain to tell the Anglo-Saxons about Christianity and convert them from Pagans to Christians. Over the next 100 years, many Anglo-Saxons turned to Christianity.



871AD

Alfred became king. He is known as Alfred the Great for the way he protected and improved his kingdom.



c.700AD

Bede, an English monk, historian and scholar, wrote the 'Ecclesiastical History of the English People' which is a source of Anglo-Saxon history.



600AD

Britain was divided into seven kingdoms: East Anglia, Sussex, Wessex, Essex, Northumbria, Mercia and Kent. Each kingdom was ruled by a different group of Angles or Saxons.



886AD

King Alfred negotiated with the Danes to divide England. This was called the Danelaw.





1939

The Sutton Hoo burial was discovered by archaeologist Basil Brown. The incredible Anglo-Saxon archaeological discovery on Edith Pretty's land was donated to the British Museum.



Glossary		
1	archaeologist	a person who digs up artefacts and buildings from the past and studies them
2	bretwalda	a king who claimed to be in charge of all of England
3	ceorl	a poor common person, or peasant, usually a farmer or a craftsman
4	convert	to change someone's mind, especially about religion
5	cyning	the Anglo-Saxon word for King. The war-chief and leader of many tribes
6	Danelaw	the area of land given to the Vikings in the east of England
7	Danes	another name for the Viking invaders
8	fertile	land which has lots of nutrients, so is easy to grow crops in
9	fortification	a defensive wall built to strengthen a place against attack
10	fyrd	the fyrd army was made up of any free man that the king could call upon
11	heptarchy	the name given for the seven kingdoms that were in Britain during Anglo-Saxon times
12	invasion	an armed force entering another country
13	kingdom	an area of England ruled over by one King, usually a great warrior
14	pagan	a religion other than one of the main world religions, e.g. non-Christian
15	thane	a village chief, leader of the local tribe
16	tiithing	made of 10 men responsible for each others' behaviour
17	tribe	a community of people who live and work together, with a common leader
18	wergild	'man payment' — payment given to a family if you injured or killed someone

Significant People and Places

			
Alfred the Great	Saint Augustine	Bede	Woden God of War and Wisdom
King Alfred was known as Alfred the Great because of his social, educational and military achievements.	Saint Augustine was a monk who spread the word and converted the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity.	Bede was a 9 th century historian who is known as the Father of English History because of his influential work.	The Anglo-Saxons were pagans who believed in many Gods.

Significant People and Places

			
Sutton Hoo	Edith Pretty	Canterbury Cathedral	Lindisfarne Priory
The site of an Anglo-Saxon burial ground which was a major archaeological discovery in 1939.	Edith Pretty was the landowner who asked the archaeologist Basil Brown to investigate a burial mound on her land. They discovered Sutton Hoo and donated its treasures to the British Museum.	Augustine founded Canterbury Cathedral and became the first Archbishop of Canterbury. Canterbury Cathedral is one of the most important and famous Christian buildings in the world.	Lindisfarne Priory became a very influential place. Using the priory as a base, the monks from Lindisfarne were successfully able to promote the spread of Christianity across the North of England.

