

Vikings and Anglo-Saxons

Key Vocabulary

Angles	Tribes from modern day Denmark.
Christianity	A religion based on the teachings of Jesus.
missionary	A person from a religion sent to spread the faith.
Pagan	A religion that involves worshipping many gods and goddesses.
Picts	Tribes originally from Scotland who were 'foul' and had a 'lust for blood'.
Romans	The Romans invaded and settled in Britain for over 400 years, starting with their first successful raid in 54 BC.
Saxons	German – Dutch tribes who settled in Britain from around 450 AD.
Scots	People from Ireland, who, like the Picts, were fierce and powerful fighters.

By around 410 AD, the last of the Romans had returned home and left Britain vulnerable to invasions. Irish Scots invaded Scotland. The Picts and Scots were a constant threat to Britain especially without the Romans for support.

The Picts and Scots were powerful fighters so the British king asked his two brothers to come over from modern day Denmark to help keep the Picts and Scots out. Hengest and Horsa were happy to help and successfully avoided any invasions.

Hengest and Horsa brought over more warriors and began to settle in Britain, pushing the British out. Other tribes also invaded Britain including the Angles and Saxons, known as the Anglo-Saxons. In about 600 AD, many of the British people were taken as slaves or were forced to escape

The early Anglo-Saxons were Pagans. They would worship gods during festivals and make sacrifices of objects and animals. They were also very superstitious and believed in good and bad omens, lucky charms, spells and magic. They would perform many rituals that they believed would protect them in this life and the next.



In 597 AD, a **Roman** monk was sent to tell the Anglo-Saxons about **Christianity**.

The King of Kent was the first to be converted and was baptised along with 10,000 of his subjects

Over the next 100 years, the rest of Britain converted to **Christianity** too.

Oswald gave Aiden the island of Lindisfarne where he built a monastery. This Holy Island was very influential, and the monks here were successful at spreading **Christianity** across the North of England.

Many Irish people were also teaching the religion and **missionaries** were sent to Scotland and England to encourage even more people to follow the religion.

One Irish monk, Columba, was successful in introducing **Christianity** to Scotland. He founded a very important abbey on the Island of Iona, just off the west coast of Scotland.

Other influential monks included Aiden, who was sent from Iona to Northumbria to help King Oswald to spread the word about **Christianity**.

