



How did Britain change after the Romans left?



What should I already know?

- The Romans ruled in Britain until 410AD when they returned to Rome, Italy.
- The Romans had many achievements including architecture, Roman roads, libraries, law, religion and mosaics.

History

Historians are like good detectives; they are curious and ask important questions about the past.

Technical vocabulary

Invasions	Enter a country to occupy it
Kingdom	A country ruled by a king or queen
Monastery	A building occupied by monks
pagans	People who didn't believe there was just one god, but a number of gods and goddesses.
Raiders	People who enter a place illegally, and often violently, to steal.
Scandinavia	Name given to countries in Northern Europe including Denmark, Sweden and Norway.
Settlement	A place or region where people come to live.
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
Picts	Tribes originally from Scotland who were 'foul' and had a 'lust for blood'.
Saxons	German-Dutch tribes who settled in Britain from around 450AD.
Scots	People from Ireland, who, like the Picts, were fierce and powerful fighters.
Sutton Hoo	A ship burial that has been excavated and treasures found.
Mead	An alcoholic beverage fermented from honey and water.
Chronicle	A factual written account of historical events in the order of their occurrence.

After the Romans

There were still people left in Britain. The people, who lived in Britain before the Romans arrived, became known as 'Britons'. People living in what we now call Scotland were called the Picts. In Ireland, there were people called the Scots (who would go on to invade and settle in what we call Scotland today). With the Romans gone, the Britons were very vulnerable to attack. The Scots would cross the Irish sea and raid Wales and the west of England. The Picts would attack from the north and raid the northern English towns.

Conversion to Christianity

The Anglo Saxons brought their own gods and beliefs with them. Over time their beliefs changed and many Anglo Saxons were converted to Christianity. In AD597 the Pope in Rome decided it was time the Anglo-Saxons in Britain heard about Christianity. He sent a monk called Augustine to persuade the king to become a Christian. Over the next 100 years, many Anglo-Saxons turned to Christianity and new churches and monasteries were built.

Who were the Anglo Saxons and where did they come from?

They were a mix of tribes from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. The three biggest were the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes. The land they settled in was 'Angle-land', or England.

Why did the Anglo-Saxons come to Britain?

Britain needed help so King Vortigern invited some Anglo-Saxons (Hengest and Horsa) to Britain to help defeat the Picts and Scots. However, when they did, they decided to invade and settle in Britain themselves. Some Anglo-Saxons were warriors who enjoyed fighting. They thought the Britons were weak and easy to beat without the Romans around. Many Anglo-Saxons came peacefully, to find land to farm. Their homelands in Scandinavia often flooded so it was tough to grow enough food back there. Whole families set sail across the sea to live in Britain. They brought tools, weapons and farm animals with them and built villages with new homes.

Anglo-Saxon kingdoms

By around AD600, after much fighting, England was not one country. Anglo-Saxon kings ruled lots of small kingdoms across the land. There were five important Anglo Saxon Kingdoms. Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Essex, Kent, Sussex and Wessex. Sometimes they got along, sometimes they went to war. Some of those Kingdoms have formed our counties today. For example, Kent and Northumberland.

