

# Big Idea: Was the Anglo-Saxon period really a dark age?

## TIMELINE

410 CE—793 CE

The Anglo-Saxons take over from the Romans.

After lots of fighting between tribes, they divided England into 7 **kingdoms**.



793 CE— 1066 CE

Vikings raid Britain and some later choose to settle. This causes unrest with Anglo-Saxons.

Both sides agree to share rule. The Viking areas were called Danelaw, but unrest continued.

Anglo-Saxons took back most of Danelaw by 954CE.

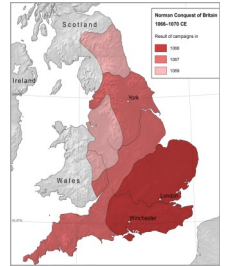


1066 CE

Anglo-Saxon king Edward The Confessor died and left no **heir**.

Vikings and Anglo-Saxons continued to fight each other for rule.

Normans arrived and took control after the Battle of Hastings in 1066.






### Key Vocabulary

<b>barbaric</b>	Describing something as savage and brutal.
<b>heir</b>	A person who will continue to rule after the living ruler dies (usually the first born son during this time).
<b>kingdom</b>	A country, state or territory ruled by a king of queen.
<b>longship</b>	A narrow ship used by the Vikings to raid distant lands.
<b>monastery</b>	A building in which monks (men who have devoted their lives to Christian faith) live and worship.
<b>pagan</b>	Belonging to a religion that worships many gods.
<b>Valhalla</b>	A place like heaven, where the Vikings believes their warrior gods lived.

### Who were the Anglo-Saxons?

society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Europeans tribes including the Jutes, Angles and Saxons</li> <li>regularly fought each other for control of land.</li> </ul>
settlements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>settled in Britain after the Romans left</li> <li>didn't like the big Roman towns, so built their own villages in the countryside</li> </ul>
warriors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>most men were farmer-warriors</li> <li>during times of war, they would leave their farms and join the battle</li> </ul>

### Who were the Vikings?

society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>travel near and far in <b>longships</b> to find wealth and fertile lands to inhabit</li> <li>originally <b>pagans</b> but became Christians</li> </ul>
settlements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>came from Scandinavia. The climate is harsh and there is not a lot of farm land</li> <li>lived in longhouses</li> </ul>
warriors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fighters believed they would be rewarded in <b>Valhalla</b> if they died in battle</li> <li>very fierce and feared. Had specially trained fighters called Berserkers</li> </ul>

### Was this period really a "Dark Age"?

Roman legacy	When the Roman Empire fell, lots of its technology, art and order was lost. People who missed the Roman way of life wrote about how they felt. They felt Europe had been plunged into "darkness".
warfare	In Britain, the Anglo-Saxons were always fighting off Vikings. The Vikings were seen as <b>barbaric</b> because they attacked religious buildings like <b>monasteries</b> .
art and culture	Although the Roman ways were disappearing, the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings were skilled artists in their own way. (craftsmen, blacksmiths, weavers, jewellers, wood carvers, storytellers...)