

An illustration of a group of Anglo-Saxons in traditional attire, including a king with a crown and a warrior with a sword and shield. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal filter. A sword is visible in the top right corner, and an axe is in the bottom left corner.

History

# When did the Anglo-Saxons invade Britain?



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# Anglo-Saxon Invasion

In the year 350, the **Anglo-Saxons** tried to invade **Britain**. At this time, the Romans ruled Britain.

The Anglo-Saxons raided the **south and east shores of England**.

The Romans were not happy and fought back.

The Anglo Saxons retreated and left.

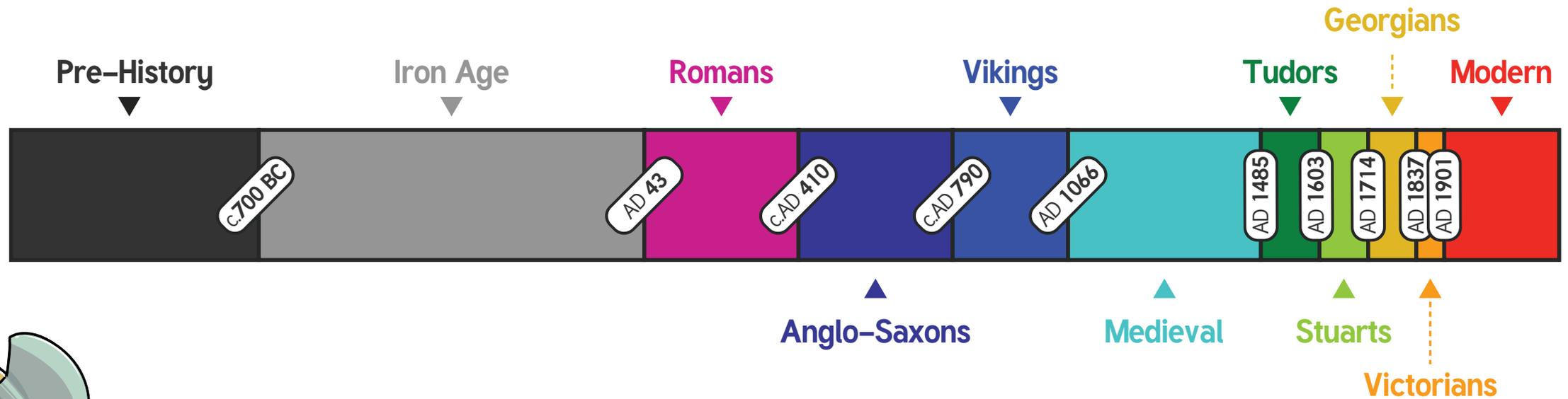


# Anglo-Saxon Invasion

Around the year 410, the last Roman soldiers left Britain. They had not trained the British to defend themselves therefore Britain no longer had a strong army to defend it from the invaders.

There were many battles between **Anglo-Saxons and Britons** and the Anglo-Saxons succeeded.

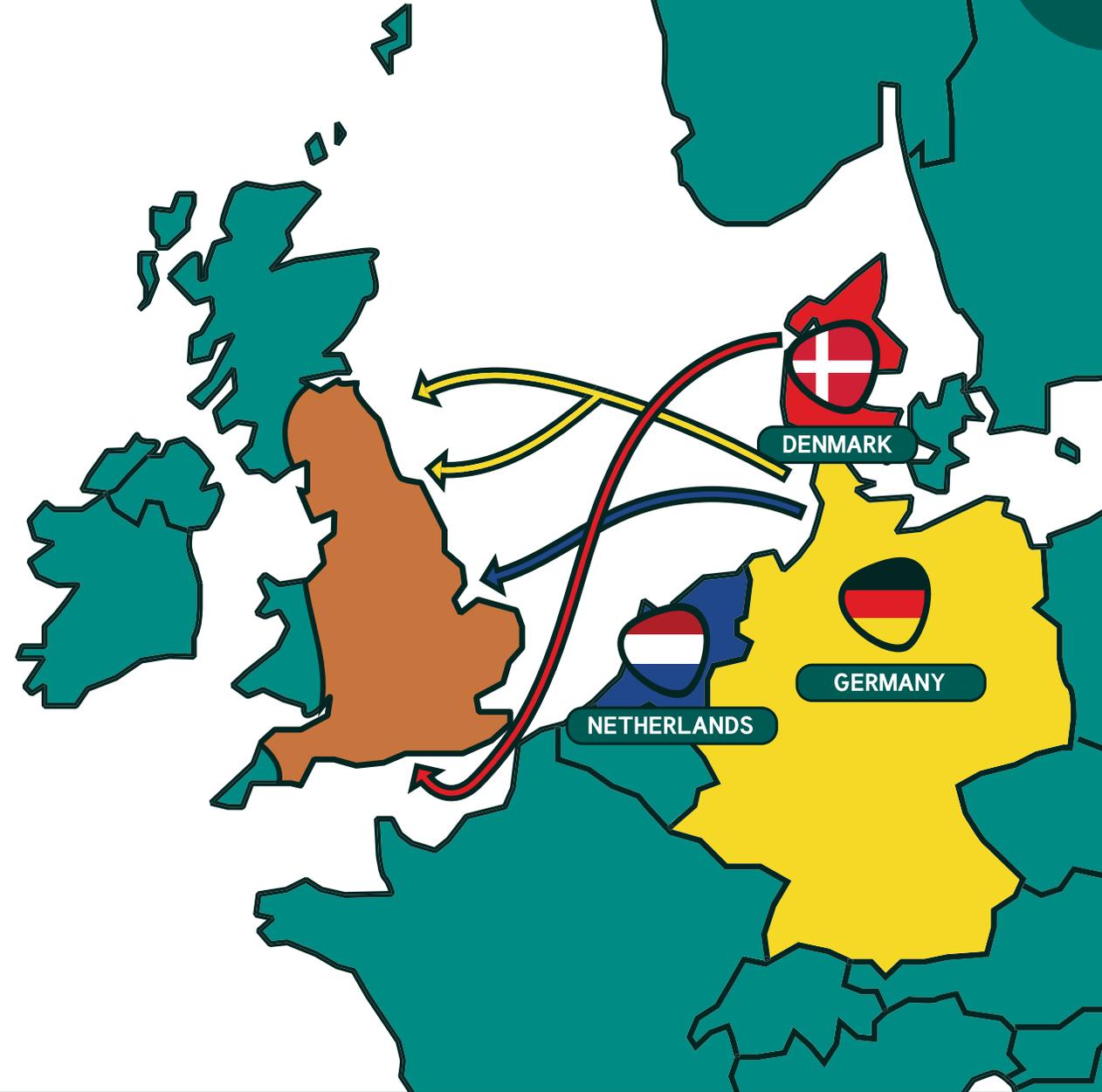
More and more Anglo-Saxons arrived to take land for themselves. It is for this reason that the time of the Anglo-Saxons is usually thought of as beginning about **AD 450**.



## Who were the Anglo-Saxons?

The Anglo-Saxons were made up of three groups of people from **Germany, Denmark and The Netherlands**. The groups were named the **Angles, the Saxons, and the Jutes**. The Angles and the Saxon tribes were the largest of the three attacking tribes and so we often know them as Anglo-Saxons. They all shared the **same language** but were each ruled by different strong warriors.

Why do you think they didn't include the 'jutes' in their name?



# Why did the Anglo– Saxons invade Britain?



They wanted to fight

Lots of Anglo–Saxons were warriors who enjoyed **fighting**. They thought the people who lived in Britain were **weak**. They went to invade because they thought they would be **easy to beat** without the Romans around.



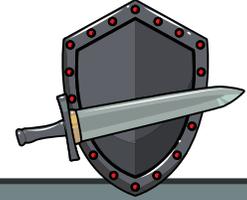
They wanted new homes

Some Anglo–Saxons moved their **whole families across the sea** to live in Britain. They brought **tools, weapons and farm animals with them**. They built their own homes in areas that became villages.



They wanted to farm

Some Anglo–Saxons came to find **land to farm**. Where they were from, there was often floods which meant it was difficult to grow crops as they land was **too wet**.



They were invited

When the Romans left Britain, the **Picts and Scots started attacking from the north**. So they asked for help from some Anglo–Saxons to help them defend their country. **But they didn't leave! They took over instead!**

## Where did they settle?

The **Jutes** settled mainly in Kent. However, they did not call themselves 'the Jutes', they called themselves 'the Kentings' because they lived in **Kent**.

The **Angles** settled in **East Anglia**.

The **Saxons** settled in areas of **Essex** (East Saxons), **Sussex** (South Saxons), **Middlesex** (Middle Saxons), and **Wessex** (West Saxons).



What do you notice about the names of the places that the Anglo-Saxons settled in?



## When did the Anglo-Saxons leave Britain?

The Anglo-Saxons ruled for approximately **500 years**.

However, unlike the Romans, **they never left!**

Many people living in Britain today have **Anglo-Saxon ancestors**.



