



→ 43	43—410	410—1066	793—1066	1066—1485	1485—1603	1603—1714	1714—1837	1837—1901	1901 →
Pre-history	Roman	Anglo-Saxon	Viking	Medieval	Tudor	Stuart	Georgian	Victorian	Modern



Following the departure of the **Roman** armies after 350 years of rule in most of Britain, different groups travelled from western Europe to settle in England.

Some see these as **invaders** or **conquerors**. Other historians argue that they may have been invited to settle as a defence against the Picts and other groups.



For much of the period from the 5th to the 9th centuries, the lands of the Angles, Saxons and Jutes were consolidated into 7 broad **kingdoms**. These were known as the **heptarchy**.

Heptarchy comes from the Greek word for seven. The kingdoms were constantly changing, and had many divisions with them.

In around 838, one king — Egbert — ruled over all of England, although this did not last.

Vocabulary

Definition

Angles	Groups from modern Denmark & northern Germany
Anglo-Saxons	The settled communities in England
Burgh	A well-defended Saxon town
Conquer	To take over another land by defeating its armies
Britons	Native inhabitants of north and west of modern Britain
Jutes	Groups from north of modern Denmark
Pagan	Groups of religious beliefs in England before Christianity
Picts	Groups living in north of modern Scotland

Alfred the Great was king of Wessex, and most of England, 871 to 899CE. He is credited with many achievements, including:

- Introducing laws to govern his lands
- Introducing education and schools
- Building **burghs** to defend the kingdom
- Instructing monks to translate books from Latin into English.
- Defeating the **Vikings** at the **Battle of Eddington** in 878CE.



Alfred the Great