Vocabulary

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| * Saxon
 | * Kingdoms
 | * Alfred the Great
 | * Mercia
 | * Egbert
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**What changes did the Saxons make in Britain?**

Saxons

The Angles, Saxons and Jutes began coming to England from modern day Germany. The Romans couldn’t defend due to having to leave England to go back to defend Rome. In 410AD the Romans withdrew from England and the Saxon era of England began. They introduced Kingdoms (which are used today), English language and Christianity to Britain.

Mercia

Tamworth Castle was where the King of Mercia lived. There was a water mill at Tamworth (one of the first of its kind) and it was a heavily defended location. Mercia was one of the 4 main Kingdoms and because it was in the middle of England it was important. Some of Mercia was lost when the Vikings were given the Danelaw. One of the most powerful Kings- Offa, ruled Mercia.

Egbert and Alfred

Both of these men were Kings of Wessex during its golden era. Egbert worked hard during his reign to strengthen Wessex’s position and took other smaller Kingdoms such as Kent and Sussex. Descendants of him ruled for 200 years. Alfred was one of his descendants and worked to keep peace with the Vikings eventually creating the Danelaw.

Kingdoms

The Saxons divided England up differently than the Romans. They began with 7 Kingdoms that were ruled by different kings. Sometimes the Kingdoms worked together but other times the Kings fought each other to try to conquer and rule a second Kingdom. Eventually, 3 of the Kingdoms were lost and only 4 main ones remained.



A map of the 4 main Kingdoms