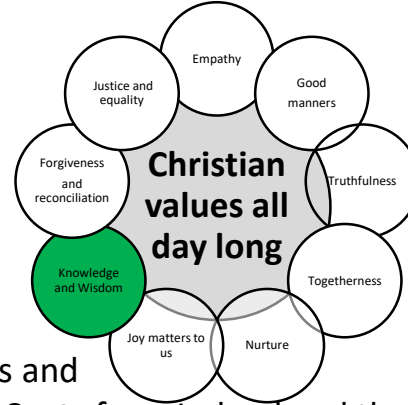


# History



## The invasion of Britain by the Anglo-Saxons

For many years, Britain's way of life had been dying. The beautiful Roman villas lay in ruins, their well-kept gardens and farms had become a wilderness. The **Picts** from Scotland, the **Scots** from Ireland and the **Anglo-Saxons** from northern Germany had been **raiding** for years to steal from the Britons. The Roman Army who had tried to defend Britain against these tribes was forced to sail away and leave in 410 as the city of Rome itself was under attack.

As soon as these enemies realised that the Roman army had gone, they began to attack more fiercely, for they knew the Britons were unable to defend themselves properly. They were mostly farmers, unskilled in fighting or repairing the crumbling forts that the Roman army had built years earlier. To make matters worse, the tribes of Britain began to split up into separate kingdoms again and to fight amongst themselves.

In the year 449 a king named **Vortigern** invited and paid two Anglo-Saxon warriors, **Hengist and Horsa**, to **settle** in England. In return for their land, **Vortigern** hoped they would help drive away Britain's enemies.

For a few years, the plan was successful. Then the Anglo-Saxons realised just how much nicer England was than their own homelands. They betrayed Vortigern and began to attack the Britons. They sent for their friends and relatives to settle as well. They came, and in turn sent for their relatives, until thousands of Anglo-Saxons were pouring into the country and **invading**.

The Britons did not like being driven from their homes to make room for strangers, but the Anglo-Saxons were savage warriors and forced them further and further westwards.

## KEY PEOPLE

Picts	A tribe who had always lived in Scotland.
Scots	A tribe from Ireland who invaded Scotland.
Anglo-Saxons	Tribes from the northern areas of Germany
Vortigern	King of Britain after the Romans left.
Hengst and Horsa	Two brothers from Northern Germany

## KEY DATES

410AD	The Roman Army leaves Britain.
449AD	Hengst and Horsa invited to help Britain

## KEY WORDS

Raid	An attack on a place to steal from it.
Settle	To make an area or place a home.
Invade	To attack a country to settle it.

**Task One:** Using the text on the other side, describe what's happening in each of the pictures.



**In the year 410...**

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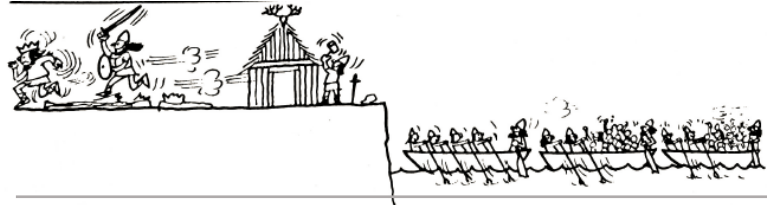


**In the year 449...**

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**Task Two:** Complete the mind-map about why the Anglo-Saxons were able to invade England. One has been done for you.

They were invited and paid by Vortigern to come to Briton.



Why were the Anglo-Saxons able to invade?