

Anglo-Saxon and Scots Invaders

By around 410AD, the last of the Romans had left Britain to go back to Rome and England was left to look after itself for the first time in about 400 years. Emperor Honorius told the people to fight the Picts, Scots and Saxons who were attacking them, but the Brits were not good fighters.

The Scots, who came from Ireland, invaded and took land in Scotland. The Scots split Scotland into 4 separate places that were named Dal Riata, Pictland, Strathclyde and Bernicia. The Picts (the people already living in Scotland) and the Scots were always trying to get into England. It was hard for the people in England to fight them off without help from the Romans. The Picts and Scots are said to have jumped over Hadrian's Wall, killing everyone in their way.



The British king found it hard to get his men to stop the Picts and Scots. He was worried they would take over in England because they were excellent fighters. Then he had an idea how he could keep the Picts and Scots out. He asked two brothers called Hengest and Horsa from Jutland to come and fight for him and keep England safe from the Picts and Scots.

Hengest and Horsa did help to keep the Picts and Scots out, but they liked England and they wanted to stay. They knew that the people in England were not strong fighters so they would be easy to beat. Hengest and Horsa brought more men to fight for England and over time they won.



However, men from other countries also wanted to take over in Britain and they attacked too. These invaders are called the Anglo-Saxons because the two biggest groups were called the Angles and the Saxons. Other invaders were the Jutes, Franks and Frisians. They came from Germany, Holland and Denmark.

The Anglo-Saxons ruled in England until the 11th century AD. In 1066AD, William the Conqueror from Normandy beat King Harold II at the Battle of Hastings. This was the end of Anglo-Saxon England and the start of Norman rule.

Questions

1. By what time had the last of the Romans left Britain?

2. What groups of people were attacking England at this time?

3. Where did the Scots come from?

4. One historian described the Scots as 'foul'. What does this mean?

Use a dictionary to help you.

5. What did the Scots and the Picts do as they jumped over Hadrian's Wall?

6. Who did the British king ask for help?

7. Which two groups of people are the Anglo-Saxons named after?

8. Until when did the Anglo-Saxons rule in England?

Answers

1. By what time had the last of the Romans left Britain?
The last of the Romans had left Britain by around 410AD.
2. What groups of people were attacking England at this time?
The Picts, Scots and Saxons were attacking England at this time.
3. Where did the Scots come from?
The Scots came from Ireland.
4. One historian described the Scots as 'foul'. What does this mean?
Use a dictionary to help you.
'Foul' means revolting, wicked, immoral or unpleasant.
5. What did the Scots and the Picts do as they jumped over Hadrian's Wall?
The Scots and the Picts killed everyone in their way as they jumped over Hadrian's Wall.
6. Who did the British king ask for help?
The British king asked two brothers, Hengest and Horsa for help.
7. Which two groups of people are the Anglo-Saxons named after?
The Anglo-Saxons are named after the two biggest groups called the Angles and the Saxons.
8. Until when did the Anglo-Saxons rule in England?
The Anglo-Saxons ruled in England until the 11th century AD.