

Early Anglo-Saxon Life

Fill in the blank spaces in the text using the words below.

When the _____ left Britain in 410CE, people came to Britain across the North Sea, where they ruled England for 50 years until the Normans invaded in _____. These people were called the Anglo-Saxons and were made up of a mix of tribes from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands.

When the Anglo-Saxons first settled in Britain, they lived in small family groups, but as more people arrived, these groups grew into larger _____ ruled by war chiefs or kings. Between 700 CE and 800 CE, the south of Britain was split into seven _____, each ruled by a different warrior king.

The Anglo-Saxon kings continually fought with their neighbours over _____. Nobles called Thanes supported their king by overseeing the land, raising an _____ when necessary and governing the people there. Ordinary free people who were loyal to the Thanes were called _____. Churls farmed the Thanes' land but were also entitled to own a few strips of land themselves, which provided them with food and a small income. Beneath the churls were _____ who were usually prisoners of war. Slaves had no freedom, land or belongings and instead were forced to work without any payment for their masters.

The Thane for each village lived in a large _____, but ordinary people lived in one-roomed houses built from planks of wood with a sloping roof made from _____. These homes were sparsely furnished and heated by a hearth fire, which had a large cooking pot over it.

Life in an Anglo-Saxon village was hard, and all the family had to help. Men were responsible for cutting down trees to clear land, ploughing fields using _____ and sowing crops. Boys learned the same skills as their fathers and also fished and hunted to provide extra food for their families. Girls worked from home, where they learned from their mothers to _____, cook, make _____ and brew _____.

settlements	churls
slaves	Romans
straw	oxen
land	weave
ale	kingdoms
army	cheese
1066	hall



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When the **Romans** left Britain in 410CE, people came to Britain across the North Sea, where they ruled England for 50 years until the Normans invaded in **1066**. These people were called the Anglo-Saxons and were made up of a mix of tribes from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands.

When the Anglo-Saxons first settled in Britain, they lived in small family groups, but as more people arrived, these groups grew into larger **settlements** ruled by war chiefs or kings. Between 700 CE and 800 CE, the south of Britain was split into seven **kingdoms**, each ruled by a different warrior king.

The Anglo-Saxon kings continually fought with their neighbours over **land**. Nobles called Thanes supported their king by overseeing the land, raising an **army** when necessary and governing the people there. Ordinary free people who were loyal to the Thanes were called **churls**. Churls farmed the Thanes' land but were also entitled to own a few strips of land themselves, which provided them with food and a small income. Beneath the churls were **slaves** who were usually prisoners of war. Slaves had no freedom, land or belongings and instead were forced to work without any payment for their masters.

The Thane for each village lived in a large **hall**, but ordinary people lived in one-roomed houses built from planks of wood with a sloping roof made from **straw**. These homes were sparsely furnished and heated by a hearth fire, which had a large cooking pot over it.

Life in an Anglo-Saxon village was hard, and all the family had to help. Men were responsible for cutting down trees to clear land, ploughing fields using **oxen** and sowing crops. Boys learned the same skills as their fathers and also fished and hunted to provide extra food for their families. Girls worked from home, where they learned from their mothers to **weave**, cook, make **cheese** and brew **ale**.

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