

History: The first invasions



Iberians
about 2000 BC,
Neolithic Age

The **Iberians**, black haired people who spread slowly from the South, were the first settlers of Britain around 2,000 BC. They built Stonehenge.

Celts
about 700 BC, Iron Age

The **Celts**, tall and muscular, with fair skin, blue eyes and blond hair, began to arrive from North-west Germany around 700 BC. They were farmers, hunters, fishermen and metal workers, and built defensive villages on top of hills.

Roman Britain
43 - 410 AD

The **Romans** came to Britain in 55 BC with Julius Caesar, but after winning some battles against the Britons in the South-east, they went back to France. The following year, 54 BC, Caesar came again and crossed the Thames. The British tribes promised to pay tributes to Rome and were left in peace. The final invasion took place in 43 AD, with Emperor Claudius. After 30 years, the Romans controlled southern England and the West. They never conquered the North and, to protect the frontier, they built Hadrian's Wall in 122 AD. In 368 AD the Picts and Scots damaged the wall and the Romans started to retire. They definitely left the country in 410 AD.

Anglo-Saxons and Vikings
410-1066 AD

The first groups of **Saxons, Angles and Jutes** arrived in 410 AD, and in 550 there were seven Anglo-Saxon kingdoms (heptarchy).
In 835 the first bands of Viking raiders arrived on the East coast, and in 866 they controlled the country apart from Wessex. Alfred the Great, king of Wessex, became king of England in 871. He built fighting ships, fortified all around the country, and issued new laws based on Anglo-Saxon customs. Alfred signed a treaty with the Danes, and the country was divided into two parts and the North-east, under Viking control, was called Danelaw.
When Edward the Confessor died in 1066, Harold of Wessex became king, but also Harold Hardrada of Norway and William of Normandy wanted the throne. Harold died in battle at Hastings and William became king.



Native Americans
12,000 BC

The first people to live in North America came from Asia around 12,000 BC, near the end of the Pleistocene epoch, when North America was connected to Asia by land. The **Asian people** walked through the land bridge called Beringia, perhaps while hunting animals like the woolly mammoth.
From Alaska they spread East and South. They shared common physical traits: Mongolic features, straight black hair, dark eyes, sparse body hair, and skin colour ranging from yellow-brown to reddish brown.
They are called Native Americans because they occupied the country before the arrival of the Europeans.

The Viking expedition
about 1,000 AD

Leif Ericsson, a Norse seaman, son of Eric the Red, landed in Newfoundland, which he called Vinland, and settled there for a winter. He is considered the first European discoverer of America.



Hadrian's wall



Stonehenge



1 Watch this video on the battle of Hastings and answer these questions, individually or in pairs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9t8sn2XrFuc>

1. When did Edward the Confessor die?
2. Who was the new king?
3. What happened at Stamford Bridge?
4. Where and when did the Norman and the Saxon armies meet?
5. What was William's plan to win the battle?
6. How did Harold die?
7. When was William crowned king of England?
8. How many pretenders were there to the throne of England? Who were they?
9. Which army used shields?
10. Which army used bows and arrows?
11. Which army had a cavalry?



2 Watch this video on the Bayeux Tapestry, read the caption of each image, and put the events which led to the conquest of England in order.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDaB-NNyM8o>

| | |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------|
| | William orders an invasion fleet to be built. |
| | The Normans set up a camp. |
| | A Motte and Bailey Castle is built for defence. |
| 1 | Harold is crowned king despite of his oath to William. |
| | The Normans outflanks the Saxons. |
| | The Norman invasion sails across the channel. |
| 19 | King Harold is killed in battle. |
| 2 | A comet is seen as an omen. |
| | William prepares for battle. |
| 8 | William's army lands near Hasting. |

| | |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------|
| | Lewine, Harold's brother, is slain. |
| | Harold sends a message to France. |
| 14 | The Norman Army advances. |
| | William's cooks prepare a banquet in his honour. |
| | William rallies his troops for a final charge. |
| | William is furious at Harold's betrayal. |
| | Saxons and Normans fall together in the raging battle. |
| | A house is burnt down to make way for the Norman Army. |
| | Weapons and supplies are carried onto ships. |



3 Listen to a text on Native American Culture and write down the names of the different culture areas and the related tribes (when specified).

| Culture area and tribes | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----|------------------------------|
| 1 | Arctic (..... and Aleut) | 6 | |
| 2 | | 7 | |
| 3 | (Iroquoian and)) | 8 | (100 different tribes) |
| 4 | | 9 | |
| 5 | | 10 | |



4 Listen again and decide if these statements are *true* or *false*.

1. Today there are 100 million Native Americans divided into 10 separate culture areas.
2. The Inuits were nomads.
3. Canoes were a primary means of transportation for the Subarctic people.
4. People from the North-east culture area never came into contact with the Europeans.
5. The Cherokee belonged to one of the Five Civilised Tribes.
6. The Cheyenne and Comanche were hunters who lived in tepee, a bear-skin tent.
7. The Apache were sedentary farmers.
8. The Great Basin culture area was organised according to a strong leadership.
9. The California culture area was made by 100 different tribes.
10. The people in the Northwest Coast had a rigid social structure.
11. Shells, skins and canoes were valuable possessions for the Northwest Coast culture.
12. People from the Plateau culture lived in big villages.



Quarah Parker, Comanche Leader