



Key content	What you need to know
<p><b>Key terms</b></p>	<p><b>Stone Age</b> - A period when weapons and tools were made of stone; it came before the Bronze Age</p> <p><b>Bronze Age</b> - A period when weapons and tools were made of bronze; it came between the Stone Age and the Iron Age</p> <p><b>Iron Age</b> - A period when weapons and tools were made of iron; it came after the Bronze Age</p> <p><b>Immigrant</b> – someone who has travelled from another country to settle</p> <p><b>Chronology</b> - the arrangement of events or dates in the order of their occurrence, starting with the earliest first</p>
<p><b>The Middle Ages</b></p> 	<p>The Middle Ages – is the what historians in Britain call the time from about 1066 to 1500. Another name for this part of history is the ‘Medieval period’.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The word ‘medieval’ comes from the Latin language and means ‘middle’.</li> <li>-It is called the ‘Middle Ages’ because this period of history comes between the ancient times of the Greeks and Romans and before more modern times</li> </ul>
<p><b>The British Isles</b></p>	<p><b>British Isles</b> – the correct term for the islands that make up most of what people call ‘Britain’.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-A group of islands including Britain, Ireland, the Isle of Man, the Orkney Islands, and the Shetland Islands</li> <li>-Over 5000 islands make up the British Isles although only about 130 are lived on</li> <li>-The two largest islands of the British Isles are Great Britain and Ireland.</li> <li>-Smaller islands include – Orkney, Shetland, the Isle of Man, the Isle of Wight, Anglesey, Jersey.</li> </ul> 
<p><b>Who lived in the British Isles first?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The latest thinking is that for hundreds of thousands of years, there were probably no humans in Britain at all but there were animals!</li> <li>-Humans started to arrive in Britain from Europe about half a million years ago.</li> <li>-These were the British Isles earliest immigrants!</li> <li>-These humans were Hunter gatherers who lived by gathering food such as fruit and nuts and by killing animals for meat and fur.</li> <li>-They learned basic skills such as lighting fires and making flint tools.</li> <li>-They moved around in small groups, sheltering in caves or building basic huts.</li> </ul> <p>For thousands of years life in Britain remained <u>unchanged</u>. 500 years ago however people learned how to farm and produce their own food. This was an <u>important change</u> because now they didn’t have to hunt for their food.</p>

## The Bronze Age



A new wave of settlers arrived in Britain from central Europe about 2500 BC  
They were called the Beaker people because they decorated the pottery that they used  
The Beaker people new how to make things out of copper and bronze ..... so the time of the Beaker people is often known as the Bronze Age  
Tools and weapons made from stone and wood were replaced by metal ones

## The Celts



Tribes known as the Celts arrived from central Europe in around 500 BC.  
From around 750 BC to 12 BC, the Celts were the most powerful people in central and northern Europe. There were many groups (tribes) of Celts, speaking a vaguely common language.

The word Celt comes from the Greek word, **Keltoi**, which means barbarians and is properly pronounced as "Kelt".

## The Romans



The Romans invaded Britain in AD43 and stayed for 400 years  
-In c. 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD we find the first recorded African communities in Britain. As part of the respected members fo the Roman Army, North African Moors helped build Haridans wall. Many would have settled in this area. Studies have shown that around this time over 10% of the population of the Roman city York were of African descent – in fact they were more multicultural then than they are today!  
-A lot of our language and laws can be traced back to the Romans  
-Some of our main roads are based on old Roman roads and many -Roman towns are still important towns today e.g St Albans  
-The Romans introduced amny other things to Britain that we still have today, e.g calendars, coins,bricks, cats and foods such as grapes, apples, carrots and turnips.  
-The Romans were the first to use the name Britannia for Britain. The name is based on the word 'Pretannia', which is what the Ancient Greeks called the British Isles beacsue they thought a Celtic tribe called the 'Pretani' lived there (most of the Prenati tribe actually lived in Ireland)



**The Anglo-Saxons**

Invaders from Denmark and Northern Germany arrived in c450 AD

- They were called Angles, Saxons, Jutes
- Many of our towns were created and named by Anglo-Saxons- if the name of the town ends in 'ton'; 'wich', 'burn', 'hurst', 'ham' then it probably originates from Anglo Saxon times.
- The foundation of Luton is usually dated to the 6th century when a Saxon outpost was founded on the river Lea, Lea tun
- Lots of our counties are named after the Anglo-Saxons e.g East Anglia; Essex – land of the East Saxons
- A lot of our language also comes from the Anglo-Saxons e.g. days of the week; bed, cat, dog, tree, fox, fart!



**The Vikings**

Vikings arrived in Britain in the eighth century from Denmark; Norway and Sweden.

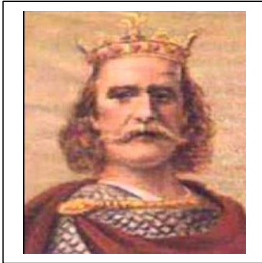
- Places with names ending in 'by' or 'thorpe' were probably named by the Vikings.
- Around this time, the Scots (an Irish tribe) began to settle in Scotland. They fought the Picts who already lived there. The tribes eventually joined together.

**What was England like before 1066?**

- England was a Christian country. Everyone went to church
- Medieval England had a variety of rich resources: Fish, Salt, Lead, Iron, Silver, Wool, -Wheat, Copper, Honey. Tin from Cornwall supplied most of Europe at this time and is said to be the reason why the Romans invaded Britain.

## The Norman Conquest of England:

### Who were the main claimants to the throne in 1066?



At the beginning of 1066, Edward the Confessor ruled England. He was 61 years old and was dying. King Edward had no children, so succession was difficult. There was no direct heir to the throne. King Edward died on January 5th in the first week of the new year. As King Edward had no children, it was uncertain who would rule next. Edward died without making it clear who should become the next king. This caused the trouble in 1066...

**-Harold Godwinson, Earl of Wessex**, a powerful and rich English nobleman. According to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, Edward named Godwinson as his successor on his deathbed. The next day, the royal council, known as the **Witan**, met and declared Godwinson king. An English king was proclaimed by the Witan - this gives Harold Godwinson the only claim to the throne by right.

**-William, Duke of Normandy**. The Norman chroniclers reported that Edward had promised his distant relative, William, the throne in 1051. Claims that Edward promised the throne were probably made up by the rival sides after the event. The Bayeux Tapestry, which was made after the Conquest, shows Godwinson swearing an oath of support to William in a visit to Normandy in 1064. William had the support of the Pope.

**-Harald Hardrada, King of Norway**, a Viking warrior. Hardrada based his claim on the fact that his ancestor, King Cnut, had once ruled England (1016–1035). He was helped by Godwinson's brother, Tostig.

## Routes to the Battle of Stamford Bridge and the Battle of Hastings

