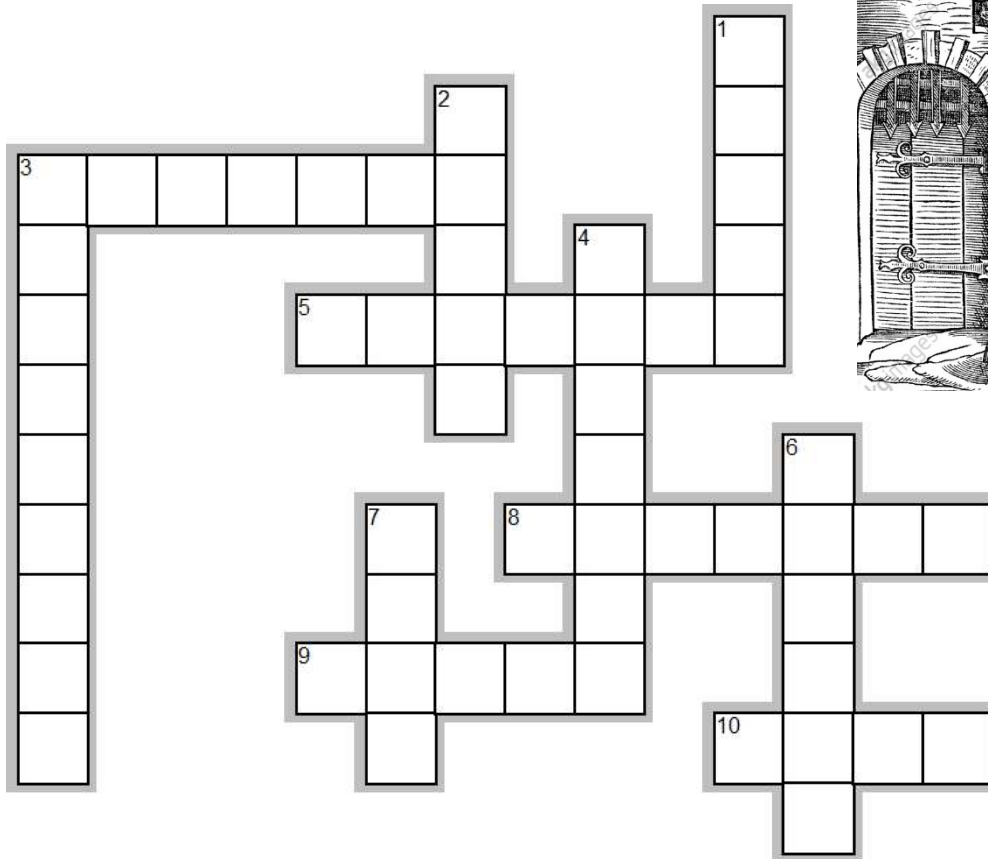


WEEK 8: HISTORY

Read Chapter 22: “A Struggle to Become Lord of Christendom”

Complete the crossword puzzle.



Across

3. The fortress where the king asked for forgiveness from the pope.
5. Name of the pope in 1073. He used to be a monk named Hildebrand.
8. The Asian tribe that attacked Germany.
9. People who belonged to the land they tilled.
10. The great king who pushed the Magyars into Hungary.

Down

1. Frankish king who believed that he had the right to rule over leaders of the church.
2. Powerful duke who become king of France in 987.
3. The pope didn't allow any priests to give this to King Henry.
4. The Nordic seafarers who conquered northern France.
6. Danish ruler who conquered England in 1016.
7. The land the king bestowed to a nobleman.

Read the article about England on the following pages.

Answer these questions on notebook paper.

1. Who were the Jutes, Angles, and Saxons?
2. Where did the name “England” come from?
3. Who invaded England in the 800s?
4. Why was King Alfred called “Alfred the Great”? What did he do?
5. Canute the Dane took over England in 1016. Why did the English people like this invader?
6. King Edward of England and William the Duke of Normandy (in France) were cousins. When Edward died, William said Edward told him that he would be king, but another claimed that he was the new king. What’s the name of the man who said he was the new king?
7. What happened at the Battle of Hastings?
8. What is the Domesday Book?
9. How was William the Conqueror a good king? How was he a bad king?

A famous tapestry – the Bayeux Tapestry –illustrates William the Conqueror’s invasion of England. It is 230 feet long and was embroidered by hand. Use this link to watch a video that shows the tapestry.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1XbJSulejw>

This link takes you to a video about how the Normans changed the history of Europe.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Owf5Uq4oFps>



Julius Caesar conquered the Celts about 50 years before the birth of Christ, around 55 B.C., and Britain became the westernmost province of the Roman Empire. Christianity reached Britain during the Roman occupation, and many Celts became Christians. In the 5th century A.D., waves of *Jutes*, *Angles*, and *Saxons*, Germanic tribes, sailed across the North Sea from the region south of Denmark. The Romans had left Britain by this time, and the Celts had little means of protection. By the time the invaders had finished their attack, only a few ruins remained as evidence that Rome had ever ruled Britain. Most of the Celts were either killed, enslaved, or pushed out of Britain.

The Celts have never been forgotten, however. Some of them remained in Ireland, Wales, and Scotland, where the people are sometimes called Celts even today, and the musical Celtic language still survives to some extent. Some Celtic heroes, such as *King Arthur*, live on in imaginative legends.

England Enters the Middle Ages

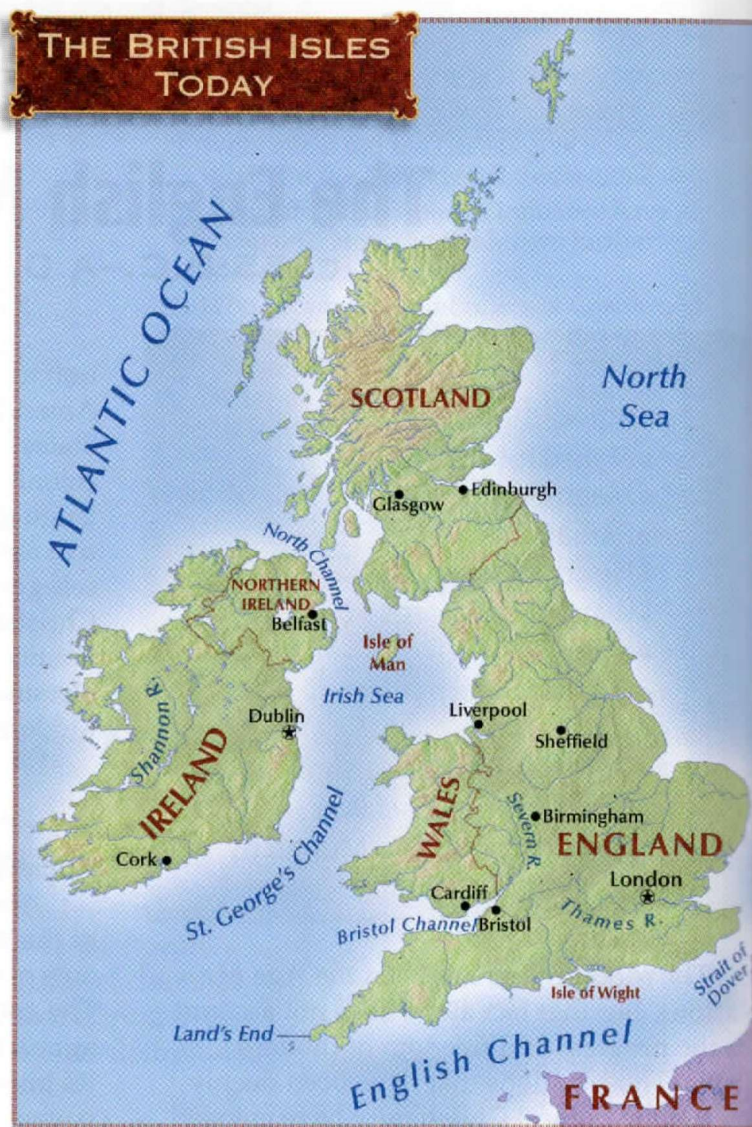
The Anglo-Saxons. The Jutes, Angles, and Saxons who conquered Britain were collectively called **Anglo-Saxons**. These pagan people worshiped many gods, but they had a deep love of freedom and independence and a firm sense of justice. They all spoke the same Germanic language. The Angles would give their name to the southern part of the island of Britain—"Angleland," or **England**—and also to the English language that developed over the centuries.

The early Saxons were renowned for their wandering poets, or **scops**. The greatest Saxon poem that still remains, *Beowulf*, gives us a good idea of the warlike, barbaric manners of the ancient Saxons.

The triumphant Anglo-Saxons carved England into dozens of small, hostile kingdoms,

but as early as the seventh century, some steps toward unity had been taken. **Augustine** [ô'gūs·tēn], a missionary appointed by Pope Gregory the Great in 597, began the great task of converting the Anglo-Saxons to Roman Catholicism. He eventually became the first archbishop of Canterbury. All of England officially accepted Romanism around 664. This gave the English people religious unity, encouraging them to think of England as one country in spite of its many little kingdoms.

New invasions. In the mid-800s, Vikings (particularly **Danes**) began to invade England. By 870, Danes controlled most of England outside of Wessex, the leading Saxon kingdom.



Alfred the Great

A young conqueror. In 871, a new king came to the throne in Wessex. At the age of 24, **Alfred** was already renowned for his love of wisdom and for his proficiency as a hunter. Over the years, he bravely led his people against the Danes, and by 878, he had achieved complete victory over the Viking invaders.



Alfred the Great

A wise king. Alfred's accomplishments earned him the title "**Alfred the Great.**" As the first great king of England, he helped in many ways to make England a nation-state. He obliged *all* able-bodied men to serve in the national army and laid the foundations of the great English navy. He promoted learning by having important books, including the four gospels, translated into the Anglo-Saxon language. Alfred made Englishmen aware of their common history through a running account of current events, the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, which continued to be written for hundreds of years.

Soon after Alfred's death in 899, the Danes and English began fighting once again. But Alfred's descendants defeated the Danes, and by the late 10th century all of England was a single kingdom.

Canute the Dane

England had come a long way as a nation, but it was only as strong as its king. Under less competent leadership, England fell to new Viking invaders, and in 1016 **Canute the Dane** became king of England. Canute ruled *England, Denmark, and Norway as a great empire*. His careful treatment of the English people, the internal peace he provided, and the increased foreign trade his empire brought to England made this Danish king surprisingly popular with most Englishmen.

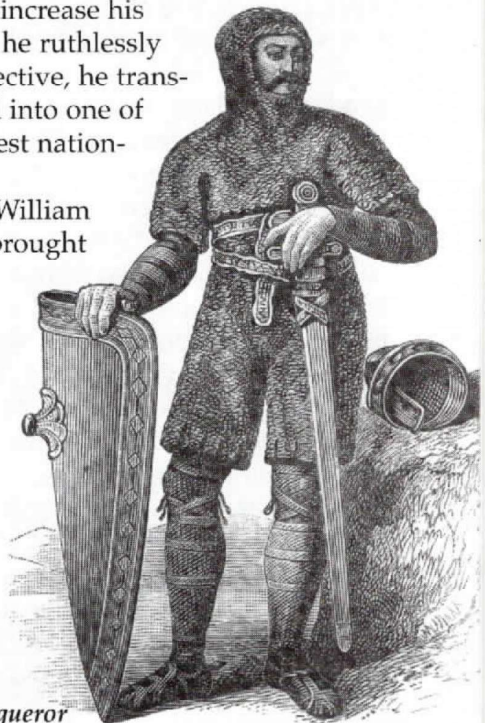
Norman Conquest

William the Conqueror. In 1042, a Saxon king returned to the throne of England. When he died in 1066, leaving no sons to inherit the throne, his kinsman **William, the duke of Normandy**, a vassal of the king of France, stepped forward to claim the throne. (You will remember that Normandy was a region in northwestern France settled by Vikings or Norsemen [called *Normans* by the French] in the 800s.) Ignoring William's claims, the English nobles made the most powerful among them, **Harold Godwin**, king of England.

William sailed to England with an army of 10,000 or more men and met Harold's forces at the **Battle of Hastings** in 1066. There, William defeated Harold's infantry, and Harold himself was killed. Victorious, William marched to London to be crowned king of England. William became known as **William the Conqueror**, and his victory at the Battle of Hastings became known as the **Norman Conquest**.

William's goal as king of England was to increase his own power. As he ruthlessly pursued his objective, he transformed England into one of Europe's strongest nation-states.

Feudalism. William the Conqueror brought feudalism to England in full force. As king, he claimed ownership of all the land. He kept some for his royal domain and granted the rest as fiefs to vassals.



William the Conqueror

(mostly fellow Normans). He also required all vassals, from the greatest to the least, to swear allegiance to him, and made it illegal for a lord to build a fortified castle without a license.

Domesday Book. King William acted as if *everything* in England truly did belong to him. He directed his assistants to take a **census** (*a count of the people and property*). The results were entered in the **Domesday Book** [dōmz' dā: from "doomsday" or "day of judgment"]. Not a person or piece of land, not "a solitary ox nor cow nor pig was left out." When the *Domesday Book* was completed in 1086, William could be sure of collecting every penny of taxes or feudal fees due him as king.

A powerful monarch. William abolished the old assembly of powerful nobles, the **Witan**, and replaced it with the **Great Council**, a body composed only of his chief vassals. He also took control of the Roman church in England. As king, he appointed England's church officials, including the **archbishop of Canterbury**, the most influential church official in England. No representative of the pope could enter England without William's approval, and no papal decrees could be published in England without his permission.

Norman influence. The Norman Conquest changed England greatly. One change that remains evident even today is the influence that the Normans had on the language and culture of England. Many of the Normans spoke French; as they settled in England, their language and culture mixed with that of the Anglo-Saxons. In fact, French was England's official language for a time. As a result, hundreds of French words became a permanent part of the English language.

The most immediate results of the Norman Conquest were political. The Normans occupied all positions of power and importance in England. Gradually, most English farmers lost their freedom and became serfs like their counterparts on the European continent.