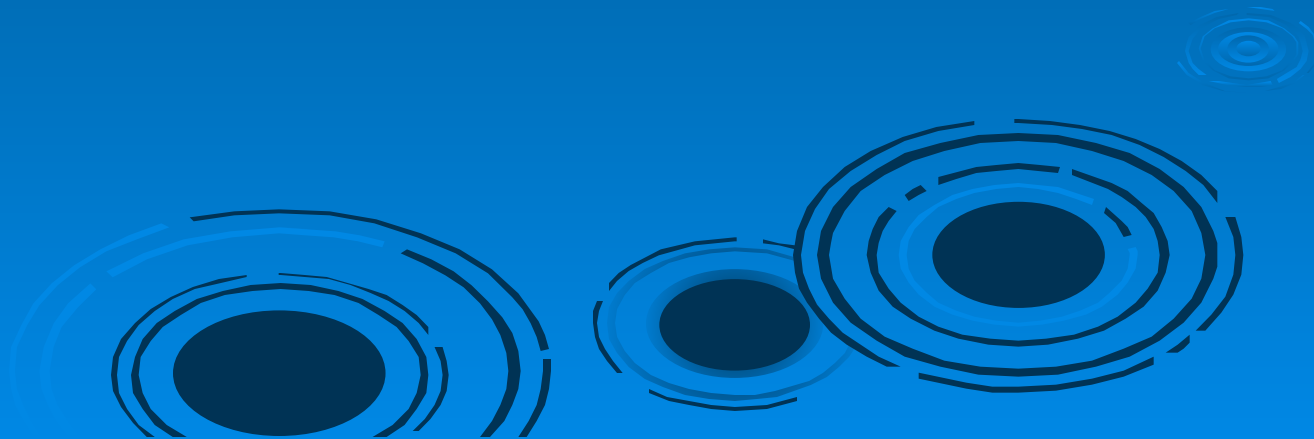




British Literature

➤ **Focus of Literature 4**



Why Study British Literature?

- Our language came from England. Most of our language originated there.
- Our forefathers came from England. They were responsible for establishing our nation.
- We inherited the ideas of personal rights and government by consensus.
- We inherited the rich literary tradition.



Beginning Information

➤ BC

refers to the recorded time Before Christ

➤ AD

Anno Domini – The Year of Our Lord – refers to the recorded time after the death of Christ. We live in this recorded time era.



Time Periods of the World

➤ **Anglo Saxons**
449 – 1066

➤ **Middle Ages**
1066 – 1485

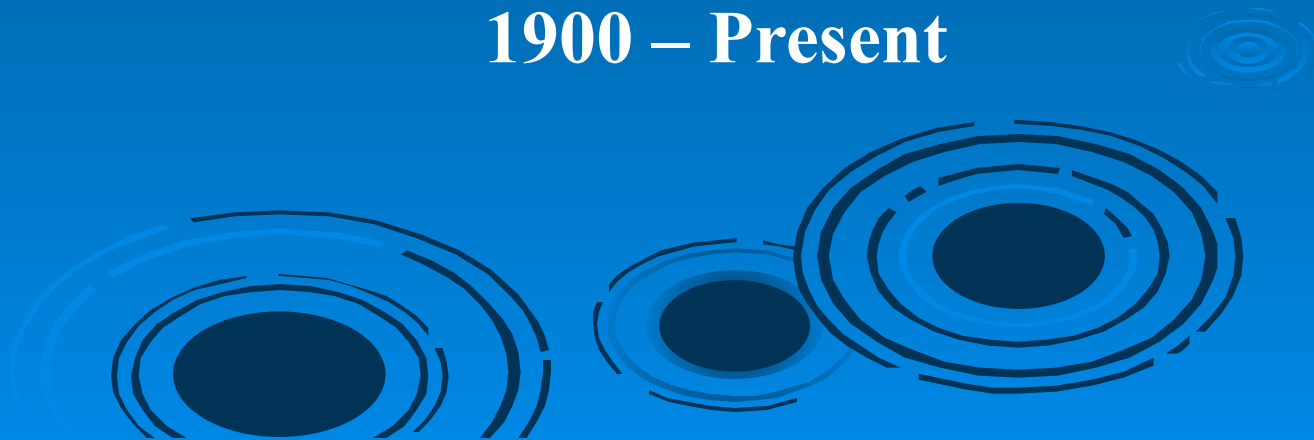
➤ **Renaissance**
1485 – 1660

➤ **Restoration**
1660 - 1800

➤ **Romantic Period**
1798 – 1832

➤ **Victorian Period**
1832 – 1901

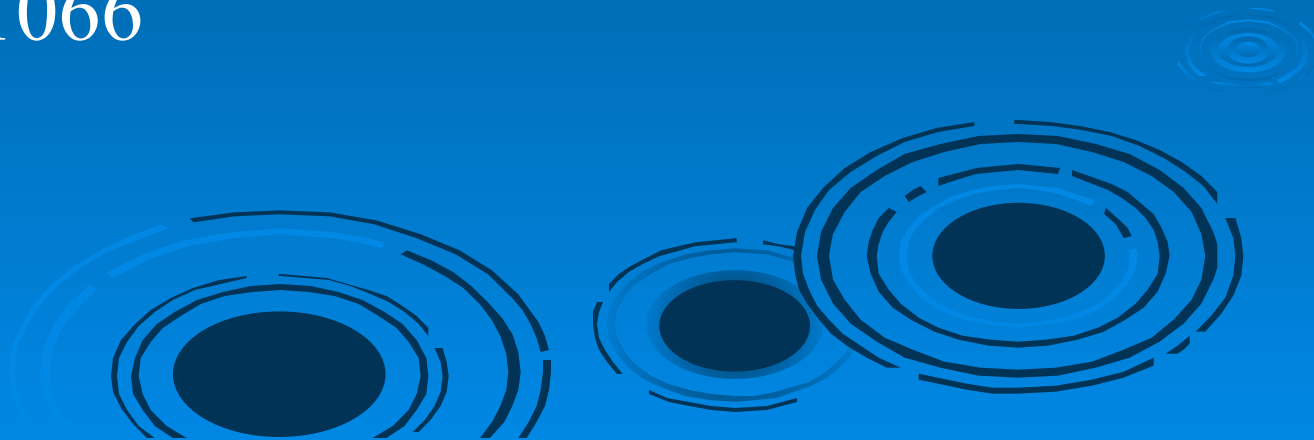
➤ **Modern World**
1900 – Present



Before & During the Anglo Saxon Period...

The land known as Great Britain was invaded by
4 main groups:

- ⑩ Romans 55 BC
- ⑩ Angles, Saxons, Jutes 449
- ⑩ Vikings 793
- ⑩ Normans 1066



The Roman Empire



The Roman Empire occupied the British Isles, most of Europe, Asia Minor, the Middle East, and North Africa.

➤ They dominated most of the world.

➤ They argued that they fought only “just wars” – only fought when they were provoked.



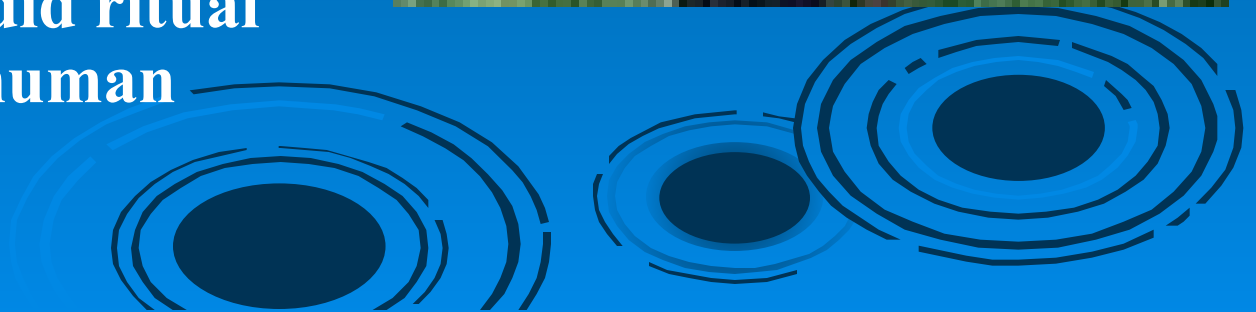
Roman Occupation of Britain

- Roman conquerors arrived under the direction of Julius Caesar.
- Romans occupied Britain from 55 BC – 409 AD.
- They had to defeat a group of Celts known as Britons.



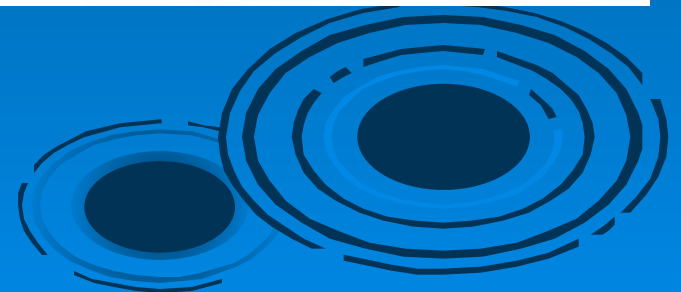
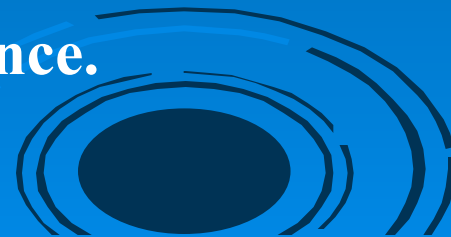
Celts

- **The Celts were tall blonde warriors.**
- **They painted their bodies blue for a more terrifying look in battle.**
- **They wore their hair long and shaved all of their bodies except the head and the upper lip.**
- **They saw spirits everywhere, did ritual dances, and human sacrifices.**



Celts

- **The Celts put up a strong resistance against the Roman invaders.**
- **Arthur was a heroic Celtic leader; his deeds was developed into the legend of King Arthur, Britain's once and future king.**
- **Celt descendants still live in Cornwall, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and northwestern France.**



Roman Improvements



While in charge, the Romans:

- ⑩ Provided armies and organization to protect the land from invaders
- ⑩ Built 5,000 miles of stone roads – this had a tremendous impact on trade
- ⑩ Built villas and great public baths
- ⑩ Built Hadrian's Wall

Hadrian's Wall

- **Hadrian's Wall was between the North Sea and the Atlantic.**
- **It was 73 miles long**
- **It held back Picts and Scots for 250 years.**



Stone Henge



- The invaders also found Stone Henge.
- Stone Henge was the Saxon name for the famous monument on the Salisbury plain, and the "henge" part is Old English for "hang," not earthwork.

Stone Henge



- This was made of large sandstone blocks and smaller bluestone pillars.
- It is located in Southern England.
- No one really knows why it is arranged this way or how the pillars were moved there.
- Some pillars weigh up to 4 tons and were transported 240 miles from Wales.
- Historians believe it was used as a ceremonial gathering place.

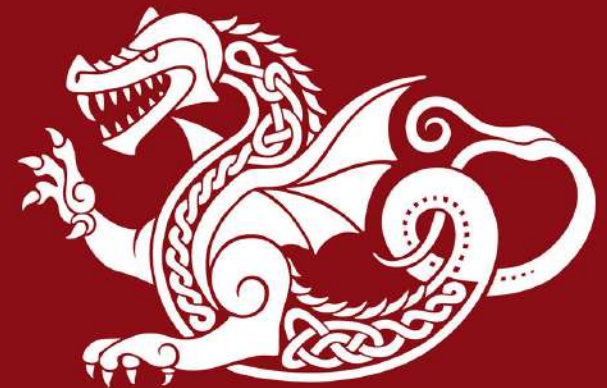
Religion

- Anglo Saxon had warrior gods.
- It was a dark, fatalistic religion.
- Woden was the god of death. He helped humans communicate with spirits and was associated with burial rites. (We call Woden's day Wednesday.)



Religion

- **Thunor was the god of thunder and lightning. This was the same as the Norse god Thor. His sign was the hammer. (We call Thunor's day /Thor's day Thursday.)**
- **The dragon was a personification of “death the devourer.”**



Introduction of Christianity

- **Christianity was introduced during the Roman occupation.**
- **Before Christianity, religion was pagan.**
- **Missionaries were sent from Rome by Pope Gregory I, and were led by Augustine.**



Augustine

- **Augustine built a monastery and cathedral at Canterbury in 601.**
- **He became the first archbishop of Canterbury – this is the highest ranking cleric in England.**



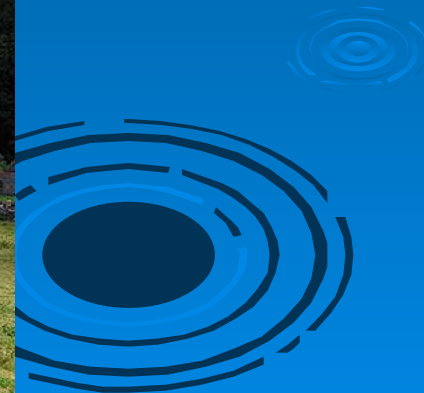
Effect of Christianity

- **Christianity served as a unifying force.**
- **It produced a common faith and a common system of morality and right conduct.**
- **It linked England to Europe.**
- **Christian Monks copied ancient manuscripts to preserve classical text and Anglo Saxon literature.**



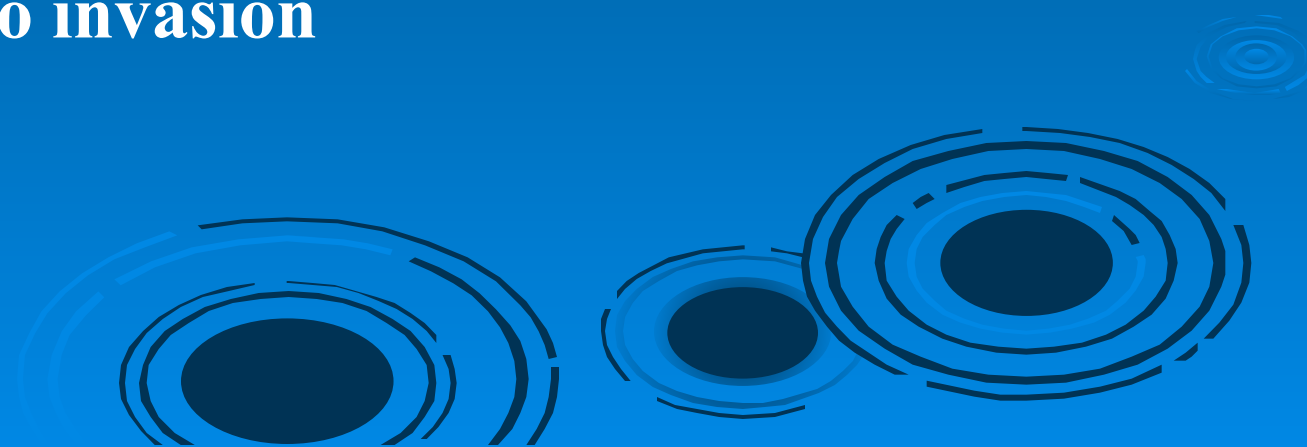
Monks and Monasteries

- Monasteries were centers of learning where monks wrote down works that had been passed on only by word of mouth for centuries.
- English gained respect as a written language.



Romans Departed...

- Because of problems at home, the Romans withdrew in 409 AD.
- They left Britain with no central government, and this made Britain vulnerable to invasion once again.



Anglo Saxon Invasion

- Anglo Saxons were from Germany; the Jutes, who invaded also, were from Denmark.
- The Anglo Saxons were first invited to Britain by the King to help him fight Picts and Scots.
- Angles & Saxons imposed language and warrior culture on most of Britain.
- With them, they brought fierce loyalty and scops.



Scops or Bards

- Scops or Bards were the storytellers of this time. They wrote of great battles and sang/spoke in public halls, usually strumming harps.
- Writing poetry was as important as fighting, hunting, farming, or loving.
- They emphasized that life is hard and ends in death.
- Bards worked hard at writing poetry because this was the only way they could fight against death – the warriors in their tales would be famous after death.
- Because of this, Bards were given favors by the warriors and held in high regard.



Anglo Saxons Life

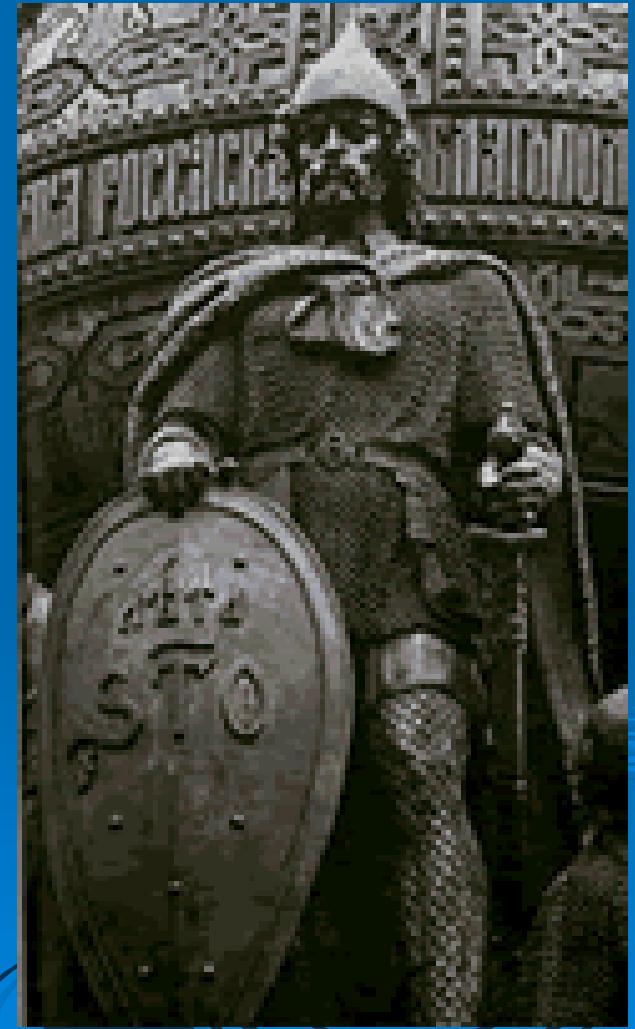
Life was hard.

- **There were numerous diseases.**
- **People were considered to be old at the age of 30 and grateful to have lived that long.**
- **Many women died in childbirth.**



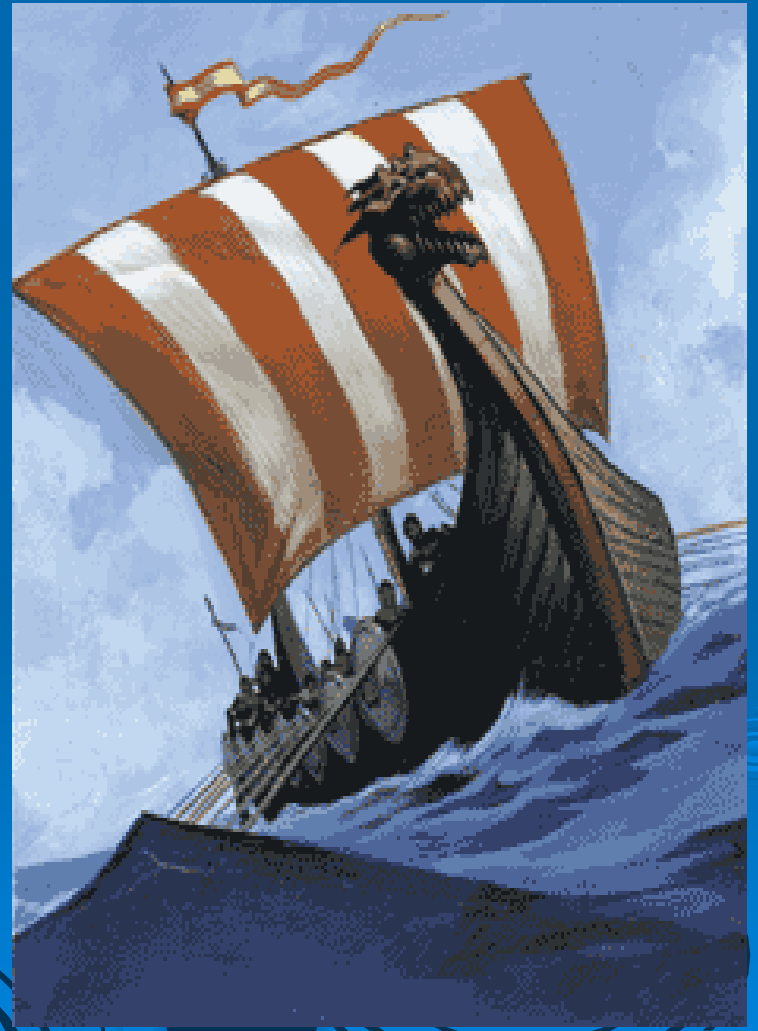
Anglo Saxons England

- **At first, this was not unified; several areas had their own kings.**
- **They were often attacked by the Danes.**
- **Danes were a fierce Viking people who crossed the cold North Sea in dragon prowed boats in 8th, 9th centuries**



The Danes

- **The Danes plundered and destroyed everything in their path.**
- **They eventually settled parts of northeast and central England.**
- **Anglo Saxons and Danes fought against each other until 1066.**



The Danes

➤ Example of Viking boat



King Alfred of Wessex



- AKA Alfred the Great – was a strong warrior
- Brilliant scholar
- Founded English navy because of the Vikings
- Led the Anglo Saxons against the Danes - united the people and helped England become a nation
- Clarified and enforced laws
- Led the introduction of Latin
- Had Latin works translated into English

Key Features of the Anglo-Saxon Age

- Society was based on kinship or groups of related people, lead by a strong chief
- People fought wars, farmed, governed, and created fine crafts.
- Christianity slowly replaced the old religion and linked England to Europe.



The Norman Invasion, 1066

- **William the Conqueror crossed the English Channel in 1066 and defeated the Anglo Saxon armies at the Battle of Hastings.**
- **This ended the Anglo-Saxon culture and proved to be one of the pivotal points in world history.**

