



History of English Literature

Early Middle Ages 450 – 1066

450
1066

Romans left Great Britain
Battle of Hastings: end of
Anglo-Saxon period

Roman Conquest of Britain: 55 BC – 450 AD

BC = Before Christ

AD = Anno Domini = After the year Christ was born

Anno Domini is Latin for “**the Year of the Lord**”, referring to the year that Jesus Christ was born.



End of the Roman occupation? Mayhem!

450 AD: Romans left Britain

- Britain attacked by Celts
 - and German tribes (Angles, Saxons, Jutes)
- > Old-English

= Migration Period

32. THE BARBARIAN MIGRATIONS AND KINGDOMS A.D. 526

Vandals	Visigoths	Burgundians
Goths	Huns	Jutes, Angles and Saxons
Ostrogoths	Franks	Britons

Kingdom of Attila c. 450

The dates on the routes are those of the Barbarian migrations.

0 200 400 miles



Settlers established kingdoms

Frequent wars between kings

Anglo-Saxon kings surrounded themselves with young warriors, who were rewarded for their loyalty.



Literature

7th century Many Anglo-Saxons were converted to Christianity

Written language – Latin and Old English

- *Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Anglorum*
 - *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People*
 - Written by a monk, Bede (672 – 735), in Latin
 - In 731 AD
 - On politics, history and religion
- *Beowulf*
 - Epic poem written in Old English
 - Author unknown
 - Probably 6th century



9th century The Vikings came

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