



# History of English Literature

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Early Medieval years

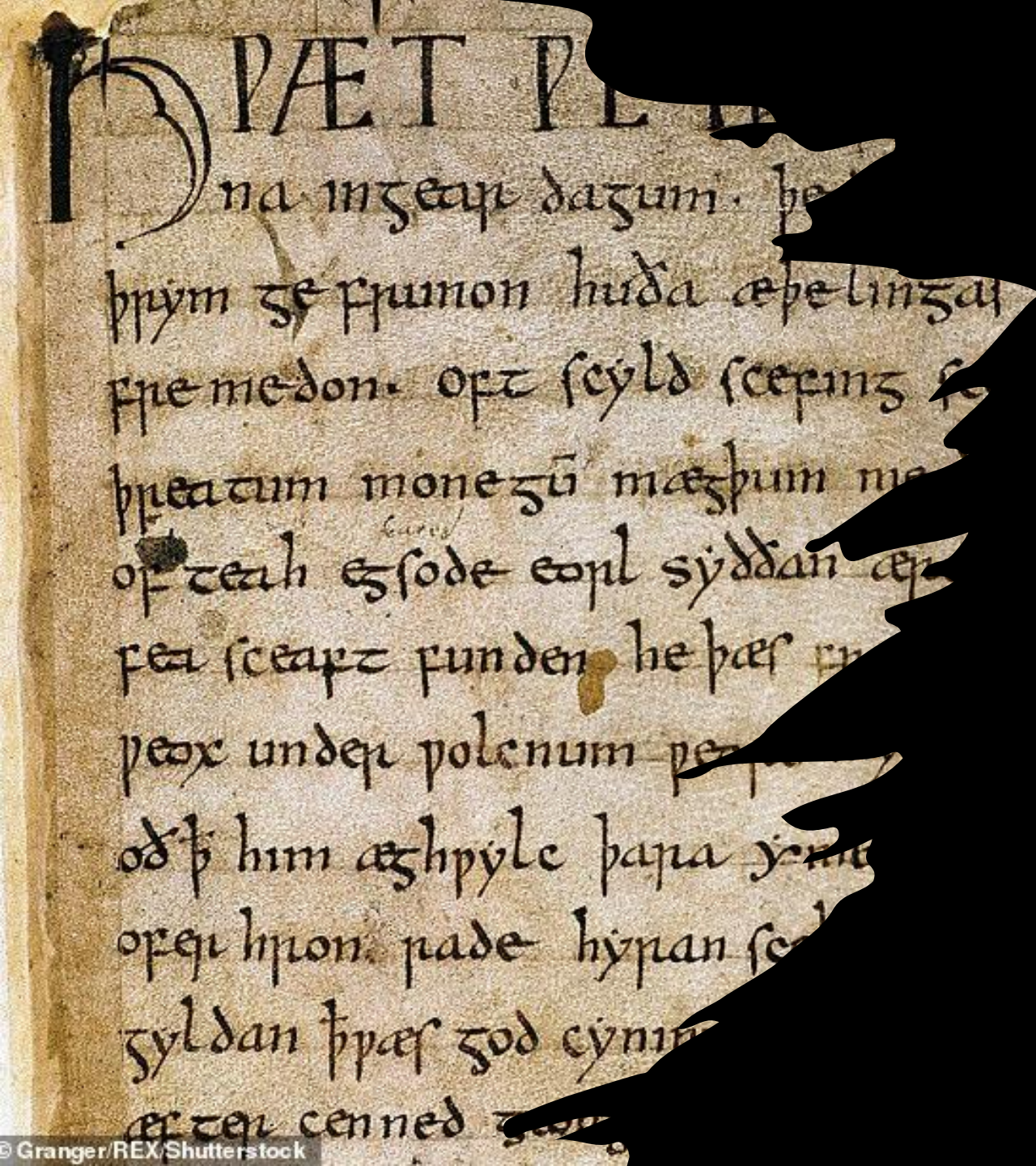
Lesson 2



# Questions pages 2 - 4

- Did you manage to find all the answers?
- In the course of this lesson, you will have to answer questions on Bede, pages 5 and 6. You will find them on the website or Teams, and in your booklet.





# Alfred, King of Wessex

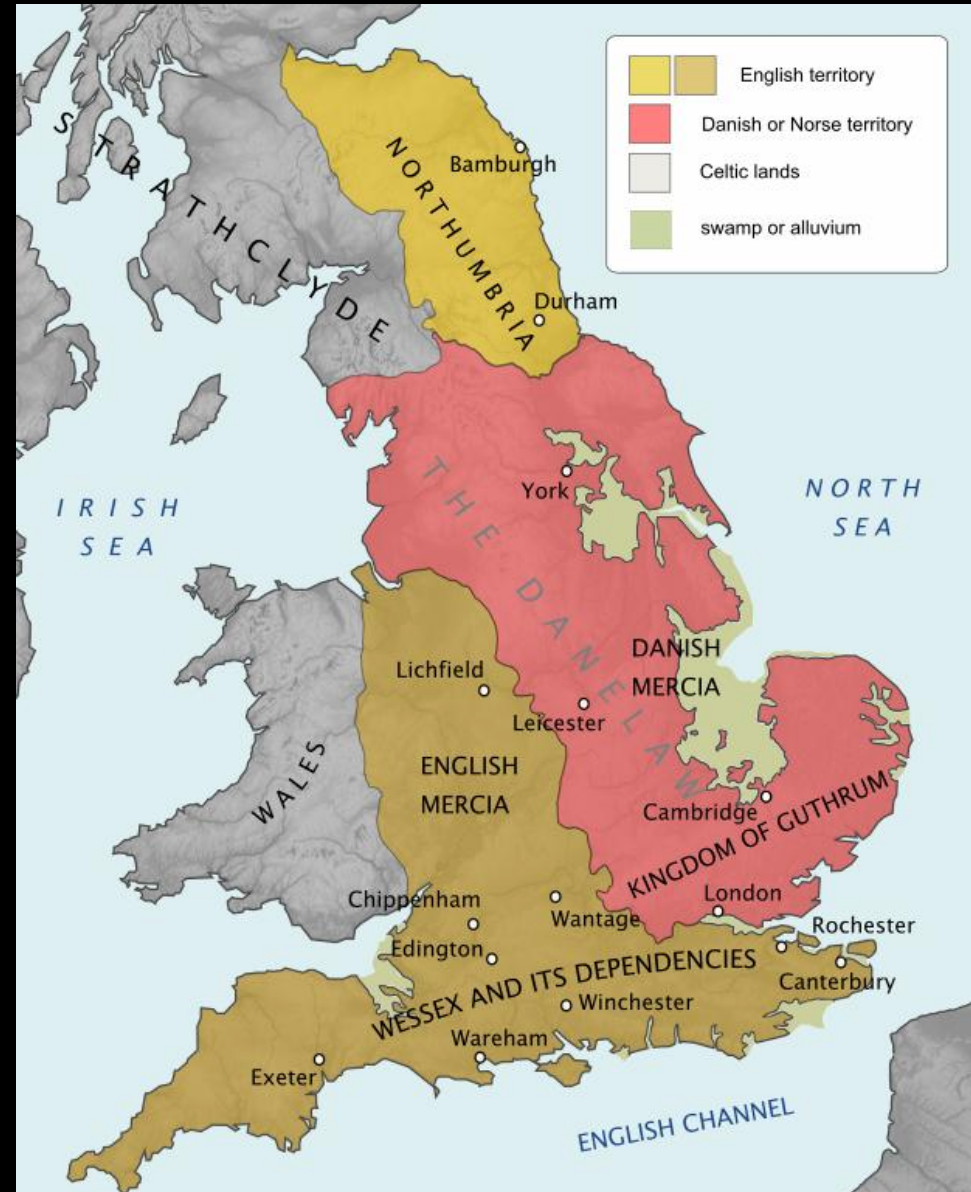
(849-899)

Alfred the Great

- Defeated (part of) Danish Vikings
- Negotiated a treaty (Danelaw)
- Reorganised the Anglo-Saxon army
- Issued ships to be built: start of the British Royal Navy
- Scholar: he promoted literacy
- Translation plan: translate Latin works into Old English
- TV series: The Last Kingdom  
Vikings

# Alfred, King of Wessex (849- 899)

## Danelaw





# Venerable Bede

(672-735)

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- See previous lesson
- Wrote a large work on the development of Christianity in Britain
- Translated into Old English by King Alfred
- One of the stories he wrote is about:





## Saint Oswald, King of Northumbria (604-642)

- Explanations of the text on page 6 in your reader.
- Fun fact will follow after the explanations.





## Explanation of text – page 6 – paragraph 1

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- A bishop converted Oswald and his people to Christianity
- Therefore he would go to Heaven after his death
- His forefathers did not have the same religion...
- God made sure that King Oswald received a larger country to govern than any of his ancestors had ever had (because he was a Christian now)

# Explanation of text – page 6 – paragraph 2

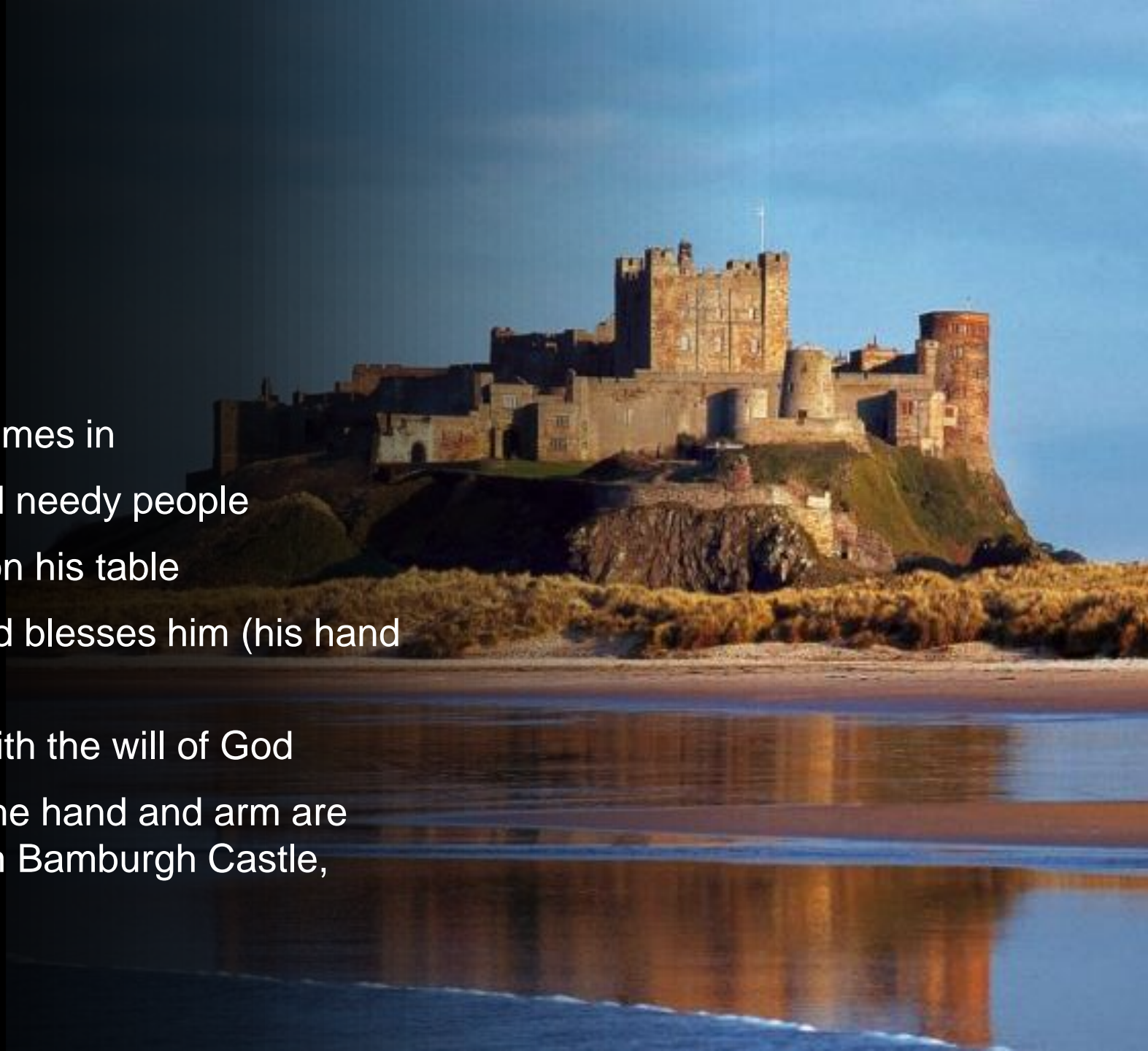
- Oswald was a powerful king who ruled a large country. Yet he:
- was wonderfully humble
- kind
- generous to the poor or strangers
- very religious (= pious) – in the text he receives a bishop at his table and they want to say a prayer before they eat.



## Explanation of text – page 6 – paragraph 2

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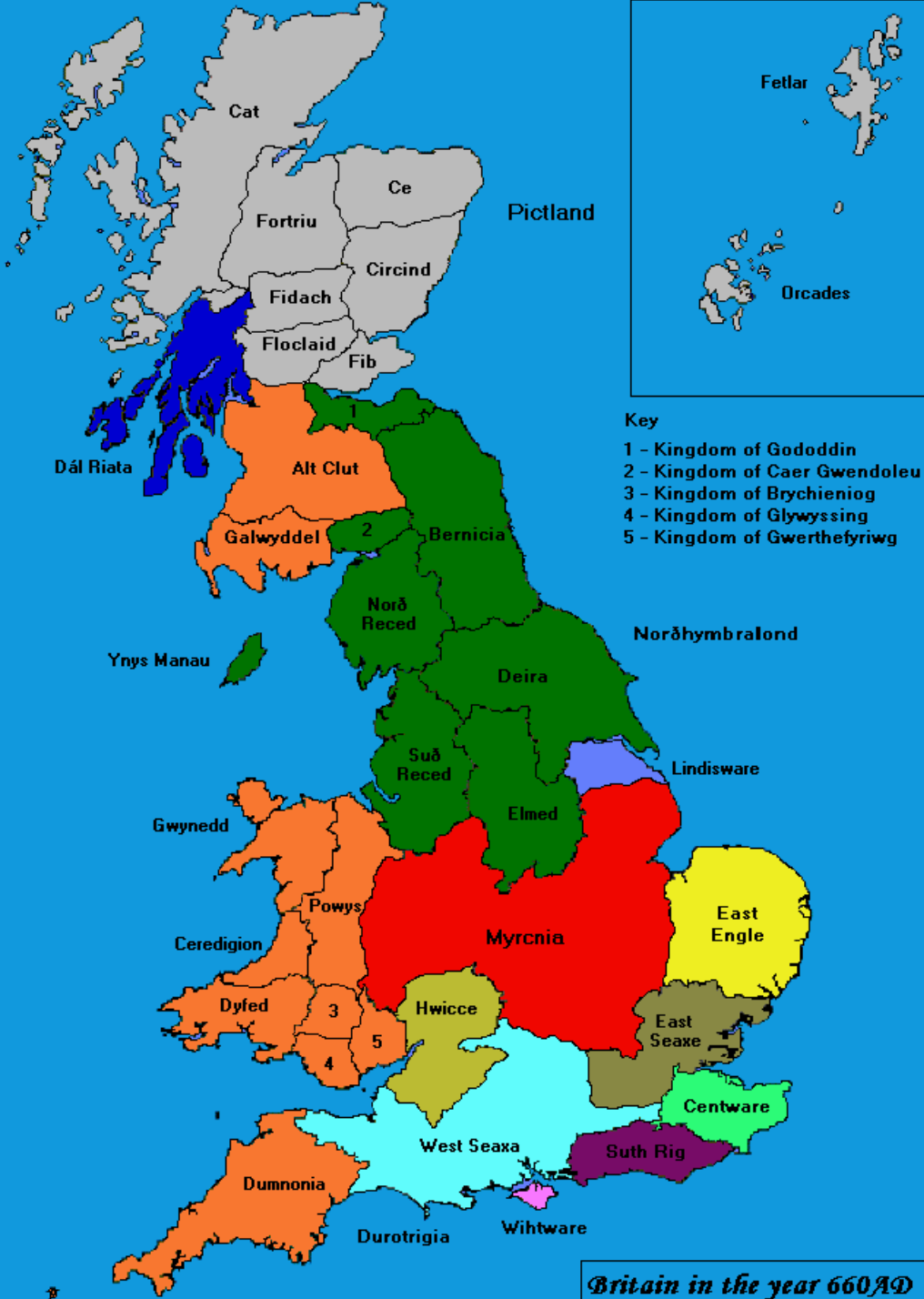
- Right before they pray an officer comes in
- Officer has to take care of poor and needy people
- King Oswald gives away the food on his table
- Bishop Aiden is very impressed and blesses him (his hand and arm)
- Pious = very religious and in line with the will of God
- After Oswald dies in battle in 642 the hand and arm are 'rescued', they are kept as a relic in Bamburgh Castle, England.



# Final paragraph (3) – page 6

- How Oswald got his power
- Map of Bernicia and Deira
- Family tree





Bernicia

Northumbria

Deira

Mercians

East  
Angles

East  
Saxons

West Saxons

King of Bernicia 547-559

*Aethelric*

King of Bernicia 568-572

*Aethelfrith*

King of Deira 593-604  
King of Northumbria 604-616

*Oswald*

King of Northumbria 634-642

*Aethelwald*

King of Deira 651-655

*Aelle*

King of Deira 569-588

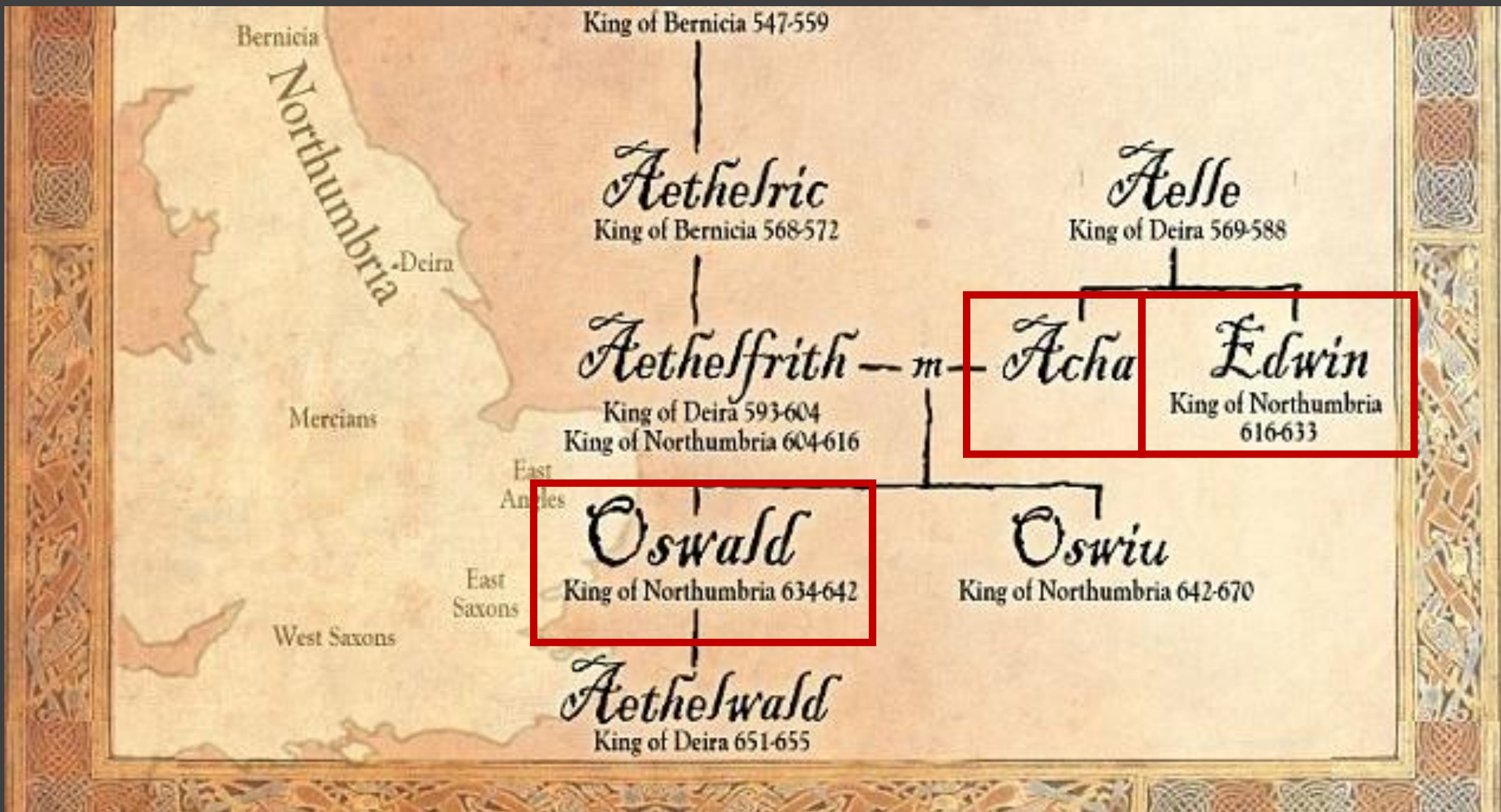
*Acha*

*Edwin*

King of Northumbria  
616-633

*Oswiu*

King of Northumbria 642-670





## Fun fact

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- Old stories always inspiration for authors
- Lord of the Rings
- King Aragorn based on King Oswald
- King Oswald is also called 'the King in the North'



# Homework

- Finish the questions on Bede, both on the website/Teams and on page 6 in your booklet.



# Bibliography

- <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofEngland/Alfred-the-Great/>
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