Chapter 1 : Roman Britain timeline - A Bit About Britain

Roman Britain to Anglo-Saxon England Catherine Hills discusses how recent archaeology is filling in the gaps in our knowledge of 5th-and 6th-century Britain, fuelling the debate about just how important marauding invaders were to the changes that followed the legion's departure.

Anglo-Saxon England The invaders and their early settlements Although Germanic foederati, allies of Roman and post-Roman authorities, had settled in England in the 4th century ad, tribal migrations into Britain began about the middle of the 5th century. The first arrivals, according to the 6th-century British writer Gildas, were invited by a British king to defend his kingdom against the Picts and Scots. A tradition reached Bede that the first mercenaries were from three tribesâ€”the Angles, Saxons , and Jutes â€"which he locates on the Cimbric Peninsula, and by implication the coastlands of northwestern Germany. Archaeology, however, suggests a more complex picture showing many tribal elements, Frankish leadership in the first waves, and Frisian contacts. Revolt by these mercenaries against their British employers in the southeast of England led to large-scale Germanic settlements near the coasts and along the river valleys. Their advance was halted for a generation by native resistance, which tradition associates with the names of Ambrosius Aurelianus and Arthur , culminating in victory about by the Britons at the Battle of Mons Badonicus at an unidentified location. But a new Germanic drive began about , and before the century had ended, the Britons had been driven west to the borders of Dumnonia Cornwall and Devon and to the Welsh Marches, while invaders were advancing west of the Pennines and northward into Lothian. The fate of the native British population is difficult to determine. The case against its large-scale survival rests largely on linguistic evidence, such as the scarcity of Romano-British words continuing into English and the use of English even by Northumbrian peasants. The case against wholesale extermination also rests on linguistic evidence, such as place-names and personal names, as well as on evidence provided by urban and rural archaeology. Certainly few Britons in England were above servile condition. This sense of unity was strengthened during long periods when all kingdoms south of the Humber acknowledged the overlordship called by Bede an imperium of a single ruler, known as a bretwalda , a word first recorded in the 9th century. The first such overlord was Aelle of Sussex, in the late 5th century; the second was Ceawlin of Wessex, who died in The third overlord, Aethelberht of Kent , held this power in when the monk Augustine led a mission from Rome to Kent; Kent was the first English kingdom to be converted to Christianity. The Christian church provided another unifying influence, overriding political divisions, although it was not until that the church in England acknowledged a single head. The social system Aethelberht set down in writing a code of laws ; although it reflects Christian influence, the system underlying the laws was already old, brought over from the Continent in its main lines. The strongest social bond of this system was that of kinship; every freeman depended on his kindred for protection, and the social classes were distinguished by the amount of their wergild the sum that the kindred could accept in place of vengeance if a man were killed. The normal freeman was the ceorl , an independent peasant landowner; below him in Kent were persons with lower wergilds, who were either freedmen or, as were similar persons in Wessex, members of a subject population; above the ceorls were the nobles â€"some perhaps noble by birth but more often men who had risen by service as companions of the kingâ€"with a wergild three times that of a ceorl in Kent, six times that of a ceorl elsewhere. The tie that bound a man to his lord was as strong as that of the kindred. Both nobles and ceorls might possess slaves, who had no wergild and were regarded as chattels. Early traditions, embodied in king lists, imply that all Anglo-Saxon kingdoms except Sussex were established by rulers deemed to have descended from the gods. The sacral character of kingship later increased and changed in meaning as the Christian ruler was set apart by coronation and anointment. In the established English kingdoms the king had special rightsâ€"compensations for offenses committed in his presence or his home or against anyone under his protection; rights to hospitality, which later became a food rent charged on all land ; and rights to various services. He rewarded his followers with grants of land, probably at first for their lifetime only, but the need to provide permanent endowment for the church brought into being a type of land that was free from most royal dues and that did not revert to the king. From the latter part of the 7th

century such land was sometimes conferred by charter. It became common to make similar grants by charter to laymen, with power to bequeath; but three services—the building of forts and bridges and service in the army—were almost invariably excepted from the immunity. On matters of importance the king normally consulted his witan wise men. There were local variations in the law, and over a period of time the law developed to meet changed circumstances. As kingdoms grew larger, for example, an official called an ealderman was needed to administer part of the area, and later a sheriff was needed to look after the royal rights in each shire. The acceptance of Christianity made it necessary to fit the clergy into the scale of compensations and assign a value to their oaths and to fix penalties for offenses such as sacrilege, heathen practices, and breaches of the marriage law. But the basic principles were little changed. The Anglo-Saxons left England a land of villages , but the continuity of village development is uncertain. The oldest villages are not, as previously thought, those with names ending in -ingas but rather those ending in -ham and -ingham. The conversion to Christianity Place-names containing the names of gods or other heathen elements are plentiful enough to prove the vitality of heathenism and to account for the slow progress of conversion in some areas. The conversion renewed relations with Rome and the Continent; but the full benefit of this was delayed because much of England was converted by the Celtic church , which had lost contact with Rome. It received a setback in when Edwin was killed and Paulinus withdrew to Kent. Soon after, the West Saxons were converted by Birinus, who came from Rome. And it was the Celtic church that began in to spread the faith among the Middle Angles, the Mercians, and the peoples of the Severn valley; it also won back Essex. At first there was little friction between the Roman and Celtic missions. Later, however, differences in usage—especially in the calculation of the date of Easter—caused controversy, which was settled in favour of the Roman party at the Synod of Whitby in The adherents of Celtic usage either conformed or withdrew, and advocates of Roman practice became active in the north, the Midlands , and Essex. Sussex and the Isle of Wight —the last outposts of heathenism—were converted by Bishop Wilfrid and his followers from to and thenceforth followed Roman usages. This may seem less than fair to the Celtic mission. The Celtic church made a great impression by its asceticism, fervour, and simplicity, and it had a lasting influence on scholarship. Yet the period of Celtic dominance was only 30 years. The decision at Whitby made possible a form of organization better fitted for permanent needs than the looser system of the Celtic church. This high standard arose from a combination of influences: Under Theodore and Adrian, Canterbury became a famous school, and men trained there took their learning to other parts of England. One of these men was Aldhelm , who had been a pupil of Maildubh the Irish founder of Malmesbury ; under Aldhelm, Malmesbury became an influential centre of learning. Before long a liberal education could be had at such other West Saxon monasteries as Nursling and Wimborne. The finest centre of scholarship was Northumbria. There Celtic and classical influences met: Other Northumbrians went abroad, especially to Rome; among them was Benedict Biscop. Benedict returned from Rome with Theodore — , spent some time in Canterbury, and then brought the learning acquired there to Northumbria. He founded the monasteries at Wearmouth and Jarrow , where Bede spent his life. Benedict and Ceolfrith , abbot of Jarrow, brought books from the Continent and assembled the fine library that was available to Bede. Nonetheless, even though he was outstanding, he did not work in isolation. Moreover, in this period religious poetry was composed in the diction and technique of the older secular poetry in the vernacular. Beowulf , considered the greatest Old English poem, is sometimes assigned to this age, but the dating is uncertain. Art flourished, with a combination of native elements and influences from Ireland and the Mediterranean. The Hiberno-Saxon or Anglo-Irish style of manuscript illumination was evolved, its greatest example—the Lindisfarne Gospels—also showing classical influence. Masons from Gaul and Rome built stone churches. In Northumbria stone monuments with figure sculpture and vine-scroll patterns were set up. Churches were equipped with precious objects—some from abroad, some of native manufacture even in heathen times the English had been skilled metalworkers. Manuscripts and works of art were taken abroad to churches founded by the English missions, and these churches, in turn, became centres of production. The great Sutton Hoo ship burial, discovered in at the burial site of the East Anglian royal house and perhaps the cenotaph of the bretwalda Raedwald d.

Anglo-Saxon England was early medieval England, existing from the 5th to the 11th century from the end of Roman Britain until the Norman conquest in It consisted of various Anglo-Saxon kingdoms until when it was united as the Kingdom of England by King Ã†thelstan (r.).

Until today, the English monarchs bear the title "Duke of Normandy. This brought England into the context of a larger entity, that of Europe. The subsequent mixture of Anglo-Saxon and Norman French cultures became, over the years, a foundation for integrating England into the European cultural life. Eventually, after losing her last European possession in , England embarked on a global imperial program, acquiring the largest empire the world has known. Many British thought their ascendancy providential, part of the divine plan. Sources There is a wide range of source material that covers Anglo-Saxon England. Charters usually land grants provide us with a wide range of evidence across the period. Other written sources include hagiography, letters often between churchmen, but sometimes between political leaders, such as Charlemagne and Offa and poetry. The story of the Roman departure as told by Geoffrey of Monmouth in his Historia Regum Britanniae is dubious except as documenting Medieval legend. Kingdoms and tribes in Britain at about C. The archaeological records of the final decades of Roman rule show undeniable signs of decay, in stagnant urban and villa life. Coins minted past are rare. When Constantine III was declared emperor by his troops in and crossed the channel with the remaining units of the British garrison, Roman Britain effectively ceased to exist. The island was left defenseless, and Constantine was killed in battle. In , Emperor Honorius told the Romano-British to look to their own defense, yet in the mid-fifth century the Romano-British still felt they could appeal to the consul Aetius for help against invaders. Various myths and legends surround the arrival of the Anglo-Saxons, some based on documentary evidence, some far less so. Four main literary sources provide the evidence. However, this was written in the early eighth century, some time after events. Later still is the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle , which is in part based on Bede but also brings in legends regarding the foundation of Wessex. Other evidence can be brought in to aid the literary sources. The Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Kent, Bernicia, Deira and Lindsey it is usually argued derive from a Celtic source, which could suggest some political continuity. The more westerly kingdoms of Wessex and Mercia show little sign of following existing boundaries. Archaeologically, following burial patterns and land usage allows us to follow Anglo-Saxon settlement. Analysis of human remains unearthed at an ancient cemetery near Abingdon, England, has been claimed to indicate that Saxon immigrants and native Britons lived side by side. There is much academic debate as to whether the Anglo-Saxon migrants replaced, or merged with, the Romano-British people who inhabited southern and eastern Britain. Already from the fifth century C. Others migrated to northern Spain Britonia. The migration of the British to the continent and the Anglo-Saxons to Britain should be considered in the context of wider European migrations. However, some doubt, based on genetic and archaeological work, has been cast on the extent of Anglo-Saxon migration to Britain. Though one cannot be sure of dates, places or people involved, it does seem that in , at the Battle of Mount Badon possibly Badbury rings, Latin Mons Badonicus, Welsh Mynydd Baddon , the Britons inflicted a severe defeat on the Anglo-Saxons. Archaeological evidence, coupled with the questionable source Gildas, would suggest that the Anglo-Saxon migration was temporarily stemmed. Christianization of Anglo-Saxon England began around C. The first Archbishop of Canterbury , Augustine took office in The last pagan Anglo-Saxon king, Penda of Mercia, died in The Anglo-Saxon mission on the continent took off in the eighth century, leading to the Christianization of practically all of the Frankish Empire by C. Throughout the seventh and eighth centuries, power fluctuated between the larger kingdoms. Bede records Aethelbert of Kent as being dominant at the close of the sixth century, but power seems to have shifted northwards to the kingdom of Northumbria, which was formed from the amalgamation of Bernicia and Deira. Succession crises meant Northumbrian hegemony was not constant, and Mercia remained a very powerful kingdom, especially under Penda. Two defeats essentially ended Northumbrian dominance: Aethelbald and Offa, the two most powerful kings, achieved high status; indeed, Offa was considered the overlord of south Britain by Charlemagne. This period has been described as the

Heptarchy, though this term has now fallen out of academic use. More recent scholarship has shown that other kingdoms were politically important across this period: Hwicce, Magonsaete, Lindsey and Middle Anglia. Viking challenge and the rise of Wessex ninth century Britain about the year , showing the Danish kingdoms in purple, Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in orange, and Celtic kingdoms in green. The first recorded Viking attack in Britain was in at Lindisfarne monastery as given by the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. However, by then the Vikings were almost certainly well established in Orkney and Shetland, and it is probable that many other non-recorded raids occurred before this. Records do show the first Viking attack on Iona taking place in The arrival of the Vikings, in particular the Danish Great Heathen Army, upset the political and social geography of Britain and Ireland. The Vikings had similar effects on the various kingdoms of the Irish, Scots, Picts and to a lesser extent Welsh. Certainly in North Britain the Vikings were one reason behind the formation of the Kingdom of Alba, which eventually evolved into Scotland. After a time of plunder and raids, the Vikings began to settle in England. An important Viking centre was York, called Jorvik by the Vikings. Various alliances between the Viking Kingdom of York and Dublin rose and fell. Danish and Norwegian settlement made enough of an impact to leave significant traces in the English language; many fundamental words in modern English are derived from Old Norse, though of the most used words in English the vast majority are Old English in origin. Similarly, many place-names in areas of Danish and Norwegian settlement have Scandinavian roots. An important development of the ninth century was the rise of the Kingdom of Wessex. English Unification tenth century Alfred of Wessex died in and was succeeded by his son Edward the Elder. By Edward had gained control of the whole of England south of the Humber. The titles attributed to him in charters and on coins suggest a still more widespread dominance. He defeated an attempt to reverse the conquest of Northumbria by a combined Scottish -Viking army at the Battle of Brunanburh. However, after his death the unification of England was repeatedly contested. His successors Edmund and Eadred each lost control of Northumbria to fresh Norse attacks before regaining it once more. England under the Danes and the Norman Conquest There were renewed Norse attacks on England at the end of the tenth century. It was probably in this period that the Viking influence on English culture became ingrained. Briefly, the Danish and English kingdoms were united. Ultimately this resulted in the well-known situation of , where several people had a claim to the English throne. Harold Godwinson became king as he claimed that he was appointed by his brother-in-law, Edward the Confessor , on his deathbed, and his ascendency was confirmed by the Anglo Saxon council known as the Witenagemot. William began a program of consolidation in England, being crowned on Christmas Day, England was not, for most of this period, over-involved in wider European affairs. When this period ended and the Norman period began, this comparative isolation from Europe also ended. The subsequent mixture of Anglo-Saxon and Norman-French cultures became, over the years, a foundation for integrating England into the European cultural life. The Archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England: Anglo-Saxon England, 3rd edition. External links All links retrieved March 21, This article abides by terms of the Creative Commons CC-by-sa 3. Credit is due under the terms of this license that can reference both the New World Encyclopedia contributors and the selfless volunteer contributors of the Wikimedia Foundation. To cite this article click here for a list of acceptable citing formats. The history of earlier contributions by wikipedians is accessible to researchers here:

Chapter 3 : Christianity in Anglo-Saxon England | Dickinson College Commentaries

Anglo-Saxon England The invaders and their early settlements. Although Germanic foederati, allies of Roman and post-Roman authorities, had settled in England in the 4th century ad, tribal migrations into Britain began about the middle of the 5th century.

In the early years of the 7th century, Kent and East Anglia were the leading English kingdoms. Silver coin of Aldfrith of Northumbria â€" Lion with forked tail standing left. In less than a decade Penda again waged war against Northumbria, and killed Oswald in the Battle of Maserfield in His brother Oswiu was chased to the northern extremes of his kingdom. However, Oswiu killed Penda shortly after, and Mercia spent the rest of the 7th and all of the 8th century fighting the kingdom of Powys. It is not clear whether this was a boundary line or a defensive position. The ascendency of the Mercians came to an end in , when they were soundly beaten under Beornwulf at the Battle of Ellendun by Egbert of Wessex. Christianity had been introduced into the British Isles during the Roman occupation. The early Christian Berber author, Tertullian , writing in the third century, said that "Christianity could even be found in Britain. Then, in the reign of Emperor Theodosius "the Great" â€" , Christianity was made the official religion of the Roman Empire. Escomb Church, a restored 7th century Anglo-Saxon church. Church architecture and artefacts provide a useful source of historical information. It is not entirely clear how many Britons would have been Christian when the pagan Anglo-Saxons arrived. There had been attempts to evangelise the Irish by Pope Celestine I in However, it was Saint Patrick who is credited with converting the Irish en-masse. A Christian Ireland then set about evangelising the rest of the British Isles, and Columba was sent to found a religious community in Iona, off the west coast of Scotland. Then Aidan was sent from Iona to set up his see in Northumbria, at Lindisfarne , between â€" Hence Northumbria was converted by the Celtic Irish church. Bede is very uncomplimentary about the indigenous British clergy: Most of the north and east of England had already been evangelised by the Irish Church. However, Sussex and the Isle of Wight remained mainly pagan until the arrival of Saint Wilfrid, the exiled Archbishop of York, who converted Sussex around and the Isle of Wight in Whitby Abbey It remains unclear what "conversion" actually meant. The ecclesiastical writers tended to declare a territory as "converted" merely because the local king had agreed to be baptised, regardless of whether, in reality, he actually adopted Christian practices; and regardless, too, of whether the general population of his kingdom did. When churches were built, they tended to include pagan as well as Christian symbols, evidencing an attempt to reach out to the pagan Anglo-Saxons, rather than demonstrating that they were already converted. Even after Christianity had been set up in all of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, there was friction between the followers of the Roman rites and the Irish rites, particularly over the date on which Easter fell and the way monks cut their hair. The Roman rites were adopted by the English church, although they were not universally accepted by the Irish Church. Viking challenge and the rise of Wessex 9th century Main pages: Danelaw , Viking Age , and Alfred the Great Map of England in showing the extent of the Danelaw Between the 8th and 11th centuries, raiders and colonists from Scandinavia, mainly Danish and Norwegian, plundered western Europe, including the British Isles. These raiders came to be known as the Vikings ; the name is believed to derive from Scandinavia, where the Vikings originated. The first raids in the British Isles were in the late 8th century, mainly on churches and monasteries which were seen as centres of wealth. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle reports that the holy island of Lindisfarne was sacked in The raiding then virtually stopped for around forty years; but in about it started becoming more regular. The walled defence round a burgh. Saxon and medieval work on Roman foundations. In the s, instead of raids, the Danes mounted a full-scale invasion. This was reinforced in by the Great Summer Army. Within ten years nearly all of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms fell to the invaders: Northumbria in , East Anglia in , and nearly all of Mercia in Kingdoms, centres of learning, archives, and churches all fell before the onslaught from the invading Danes. Only the Kingdom of Wessex was able to survive. He used this as a base from which to harry the Vikings. In May he put together an army formed from the populations of Somerset, Wiltshire, and Hampshire, which defeated the Viking army in the Battle of Edington. The Vikings retreated to their stronghold, and Alfred laid siege to it. Ultimately the

Danes capitulated, and their leader Guthrum agreed to withdraw from Wessex and to be baptised. The formal ceremony was completed a few days later at Wedmore. There followed a peace treaty between Alfred and Guthrum, which had a variety of provisions, including defining the boundaries of the area to be ruled by the Danes which became known as the Danelaw and those of Wessex. The Kingdom of Wessex controlled part of the Midlands and the whole of the South apart from Cornwall, which was still held by the Britons , while the Danes held East Anglia and the North. After the victory at Edington and resultant peace treaty, Alfred set about transforming his Kingdom of Wessex into a society on a full-time war footing. He built a navy, reorganised the army, and set up a system of fortified towns known as burhs. He mainly used old Roman cities for his burhs, as he was able to rebuild and reinforce their existing fortifications. To maintain the burhs, and the standing army, he set up a taxation system known as the Burghal Hidage. These burhs or burghs operated as defensive structures. The Vikings were thereafter unable to cross large sections of Wessex: A new wave of Danish invasions commenced in the year , beginning a war that lasted over three years. Alfred is also remembered as a literate king. He or his court commissioned the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, which was written in Old English rather than in Latin, which was the language of the European annals. English unification 10th century Main pages: As commander of the Mercian army she worked with her brother, Edward the Elder, to win back the Mercian lands that were under Danish control. Edward recaptured Essex in Along with the Britons and the settled Danes, some of the other Anglo-Saxon kingdoms disliked being ruled by Wessex. Consequently, the death of a Wessex king would be followed by rebellion, particularly in Northumbria. The presence of Danish and Norse settlers in the Danelaw had a lasting impact; the people there saw themselves as "armies" a hundred years after settlement: King Edgar issued a law code in that was to include the people of Northumbria, so he addressed it to Earl Olac "and all the army that live in that earldom". There are over 3, words in modern English that have Scandinavian roots, Additionally, more than 1, place-names in England are Scandinavian in origin; for example, topographic names such as Howe, Norfolk and Howe, North Yorkshire are derived from the Old Norse word haugr meaning hill, knoll, or mound. In archeology and other academic contexts the term "Anglo-Scandinavian" is often used for Scandinavian culture in England. England under the Danes and the Norman conquest â€" Viking longboat replica in Ramsgate , Kent Two years after his coronation at Bath, Edgar died while still only in his early thirties. Many of his subjects did not like this idea, and shortly before , Swein, his son, drove his father from the kingdom. The rebels, dispossessed at home, probably formed the first waves of raids on the English coast. The rebels did so well in their raiding that the Danish kings decided to take over the campaign themselves. In the Vikings sacked Ipswich, and their fleet made landfall near Maldon in Essex. The Danes demanded that the English pay a ransom, but the English commander Byrhtnoth refused; he was killed in the ensuing Battle of Maldon, and the English were easily defeated. From then on the Vikings seem to have raided anywhere at will; they were contemptuous of the lack of resistance from the English. Even the Alfredian systems of burhs failed. Payment of Danegeld By the s the kings of Wessex had a powerful grip on the coinage of the realm. It is reckoned there were about moneyers, and 60 mints, around the country. Every five or six years the coinage in circulation would cease to be legal tender and new coins were issued. The system controlling the currency around the country was extremely sophisticated; this enabled the king to raise large sums of money if needed. As part of the ransom, a peace treaty was drawn up that was intended to stop the raids. However, rather than buying the Vikings off, payment of Danegeld only encouraged them to come back for more. The Dukes of Normandy were quite happy to allow these Danish adventurers to use their ports for raids on the English coast. The result was that the courts of England and Normandy became increasingly hostile to each other. From there he went north to the Danelaw, where the locals immediately agreed to support him. However, on 3 February Sven died suddenly. In , Cnut launched a new campaign against England. The Danish army encircled and besieged London, but Edmund was able to escape and raised an army of loyalists. Cnut and Edmund agreed to split the kingdom in two, with Edmund ruling Wessex and Cnut the rest. Cnut divided England into earldoms: It seems that Emma agreed to marry the king on condition that he would limit the English succession to the children born of their union. Emma fled to Bruges when Harald Harefoot became king of England, but when he died in Harthacnut was able to take over as king. Harthacnut quickly developed a reputation for imposing high taxes on England.

When Godwin refused to punish them, the king, who had been unhappy with the Godwins for some time, summoned them to trial. Stigand, the Archbishop of Canterbury, was chosen to deliver the news to Godwin and his family. The Godwins fled rather than face trial. The Godwins, having previously fled, threatened to invade England. Edward is said to have wanted to fight, but at a Great Council meeting in Westminster, Earl Godwin laid down all his weapons and asked the king to allow him to purge himself of all crimes. The king and Godwin were reconciled, and the Godwins thus became the most powerful family in England after the king. On 26 December , Edward was taken ill He took to his bed and fell into a coma; at one point he woke and turned to Harold Godwinson and asked him to protect the Queen and the kingdom. On 5 January Edward the Confessor died, and Harold was declared king.

Chapter 4 : Roman Britain - Wikipedia

The Anglo Saxon forts, shown here in a Roman map, were part of a system built in the 3rd century to protect south and east coasts of Roman Britain from raids by barbarians. Some of these forts may have been manned by Saxons who stayed after the Roman withdrawal.

From Herne Bay to Reculver: You know when people go all dreamy when thinking about some remote destinations and devising some new travel plans while not fully appreciating the beauty or value of what lies nearby? Until the mid 19th century it was indeed a village with a population of just a few thousand. Yet once that problem had been sorted out, a group of London investors came down and realising the potential of the place decided to give it a bit of a makeover. This is how, at the dawn of the Victorian Age, Herne Bay was transformed into a prominent seaside resort. Out went fishing and in came tourism! The Victorians gave it a proper promenade, a railway station and what until used to be the longest pleasure pier in the whole of the United Kingdom. It is said to be the very first purpose-built clock tower in the whole world! The shingle beach between Herne Bay and Reculver at low tide. If you walk along the concrete seafront in the eastern direction, eventually you will reach a shingle pebble beach. At that point you will be able to climb on the grassy hill and continue walking east along the top of it. Just stop for a while and enjoy the peace and quiet while basking in the sun and listening to the sound of the sea. The beach walk can be easier if you happen to be here when the tide is out. Then you will be able to walk on firm seabed. Continue eastwards and you soon will spot Reculver. These towers, or Twin Sisters as they came to be called, belong to the ruined church of St. You might wonder why has a settlement with such a long history been abandoned. The twin towers of the Church of St. After the Romans left Britain, the Anglo-Saxons eventually turned the site into a monastery. This is how in AD the Church of St. Yet all along the merciless sea kept taking away 1 to 2 metres of the shore a year! Owing to this amazing speed of erosion, already before the 19th century started the village of Reculver nearly completely fell into the waters. What remained were a few houses occupied by smugglers. The two twin towers of the already abandoned and partially demolished St. One of them are the shrieks of a crying infant that allegedly are heard on the site every now and then. What makes this story even more intriguing is the fact that archeologists discovered infant skeletons right underneath the walls of the old Roman fort. Whether they were buried dead or alive is unclear, but the burial definitely took place in the Roman times, a few hundred years before the establishment of St. There remains nothing else to do but go and find out for yourself if the infants can indeed be heard. For others I recommend a bask in the sun and a stroll round this ancient site. Photography fans also will find cool shots around here. Enjoy your day trip! You can check departure times on the National Rail website. The train journey is about 1h30mins. So, depending on whether you stop over somewhere on the beach or along the trail, it can take you from 1h to perhaps 2h one way. The terrain is very walkable and mostly flat. Things you might want to try are: Eel pie and mash , although I have to say, eel pie is one of those foods that you have to acquire a taste for. Or better yet, head to the nearby Whitstable for their annual oyster festival! For more details check links below.

Chapter 5 : History of Anglo-Saxon England

Abstract. The sub-Roman/Anglo-Saxon interface has been hotly debated over the last twenty years, with scholars approaching the subject from several different disciplines and arguing variously for mass migration from Germany and/or elite dominance by a barbarian elite of a British majority.

Roman rule over Britain lasted for more than three hundred years. It was during the Roman period that Christianity first came to Britain: Alban, during the reign of Diocletian 1. After the collapse of the Roman Empire and the withdrawal of Roman legions from Britain in the fifth century CE, Britain came under increasing pressure from Germanic and Pictish raiders. The Germanic tribes crossed the sea from their homeland in northern Germany, while the Picts crossed the former Roman frontier from what is now Scotland. In the Historia 1. Because he was born and lived his entire life in Northumbria, that Anglian kingdom north of the Humber is his primary focus for much of the work. Northumbria was originally divided into two kingdoms: Bernicia extending roughly from the River Forth in the north and the River Tees in the south and Deira extending from the Tees to the Humber map. Much of this period was marked not only by internecine fighting between the Bernician and Deiran dynasties, but also by the contest for overlordship with the Mercians to the south. Both King Edwin d. With his defeat of Penda at the Battle of Winwaed in , Oswiu of Northumbria established himself as the most powerful of the Anglo-Saxon kings. Christianity in Anglo-Saxon England Bede records that in the period of upheaval after the departure of the Romans from Britain, a Christian mission under St. Germanus came to Britain to combat the Pelagian heresy 1. But little could be done to stem the tide of the Anglo-Saxon invasion, which brought with it the pagan worship of the Germanic gods Woden and Thunor. The Britons who remained Christian looked westward to Ireland, where a bishopric was established in the fifth century under Palladius 1. Irish Christianity developed a number of traditions independent of Romeâ€"notably, the method of calculating the date of Easterâ€"that would put it at odds with the Roman Christianity that took hold among the Anglo-Saxons a century and a half later. Bede considered the conflict with the British Christians over the date of Easter a much more serious issue. At the same time, Bede recognized and appreciated the importance of the Irish for the establishment of the Church in his native Northumbria. The scriptorium at Lindisfarne produced the magnificent Lindisfarne Gospels in the early eighth century. The illumination of the Lindisfarne Gospels shows the strong influence of Celtic art. That communities on the isolated Northumbrian coast could exhibit such diverse influences demonstrates the international nature of the Church, and the importance of trade and communication between distant parts of the Christian world. It is no coincidence that many of the most important monasteries were founded on the coast, near good harbors and landing places that facilitated trade. At the same time, there was an adaptation of some elements of paganism to a new Christian context. This kind of syncretism was encouraged by Gregory the Great, the pope who sent Augustine to Britain. Syncretism was a tool for weaning the English people from paganism. The Church and the Anglo-Saxon kingship became mutually supporting institutions. The Church brought with it a hierarchy of leadership, a developing monastic and episcopal infrastructure, and international connections that secular rulers could leverage to support and extend their own power. Christianity became a unifying force in Britain. Discussing the importance of monasticismâ€"and especially of convents founded for aristocratic womenâ€"Henrietta Leyser writes: Her daughter Eorcengota was a nun in the community of Faremoutiers in Gaul. The example of Seaxburh suggests how dynastic marriages and political alliances went hand-in-hand with the spread of Christianity in England. Double monasteries were a distinctive feature of monasticism in Gaul, which inspired the establishment of the institution in Anglo-Saxon England. In the selections from the Historia collected here, we will encounter four double monasteries and their abbesses:

Chapter 6 : Maps of Britain and Ireland's ancient tribes, kingdoms and DNA

To send this article to your Kindle, first ensure coreplatform@calendrierdelascience.com is added to your Approved Personal Document E-mail List under your Personal Document Settings on the Manage Your Content and Devices page of your Amazon account.

It is also the most formative period in British history, when the country experienced several waves of invasion, including the last invasion to have been successful, in It both begins and ends with an invasion: There is overlap between the various invaders, and through it all, the Celtic British population remained largely in place. In some areas, such as Wales and Cornwall, the invaders hardly changed the language or way of life of the people. In others, the British Celts learnt the language of the invaders, and adapted to their way of life. After years of Roman rule, Romanised Britons tried to defend the religion and civilisation of Roman Britain against the Anglo-Saxon invaders. During this year period there was constant shifting of boundaries, boundaries both on the map and in the minds of the people living then. Different cultures met and clashed time after time. Spiritually, the British moved from a people worshipping Celtic pagan gods at the start of the period to a nation of Christians at its end. The Romans called them Brittones, so they named the areas they conquered Britannia. Caledonians, Irish and Picts lived in what is now Scotland. Scotti lived in Ireland - all very confusing. The Scotti later settled in Scotland, giving it its modern name by the 10th century. The point is that we have to be careful about names during this period. When the Angles, Saxons, Jutes and Frisians invaded Britain, during the 5th and 6th centuries AD, the area they conquered slowly became known as England from Angle-land. By the end of the millennium, AD, the island was divided into the three recognisable countries of England, Scotland and Wales. Christianity was the established religion. In England, Celtic, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Viking place-names reflected the mixture of peoples now living there, and the main places they had settled. Teaching about the invaders: Even though you need only focus on one set of invaders, you will need to give the children an overview of the whole millennium. It is best to emphasise the differences between the invaders and to do a lot of pictorial timeline work. Key questions Why did the Romans invade Britain? Why did the Anglo-Saxons invade Britain? Why did the Vikings invade Britain? The answers to these three questions are different What made the Romans so powerful? How and when did the invaders become Christians? What can archaeology tell us about the invaders? How are we to interpret the surviving primary sources?

Chapter 7 : Sketch of English history

Here is a timeline for Roman Britain, from the invasion of 43 AD to the end of imperial rule in the early 5 th century.. 43 AD Full-scale Roman conquest of Britain begins, ordered by the Emperor Claudius.

Please use another browser to hear audio. They were the product of a long story of Roman rise and domination of the Mediterranean and Europe. In their first expansion, the city of Rome took over the Italian peninsula, absorbing aspects of the Etruscan culture to the north engineering and mythology and the Greek city-states of the south literacy and science. Expansion beyond Italy was the result of contact with Celtic people. The Gauls sacked Rome in BC and left, causing the Romans to respond with a desire to conquer Gaul and a need to spruce up their military. The latter response resulted in a change from the phalanx formation to the Roman legion. The phalanx, probably a Greek idea, consisted of the entire army being massed as a group, with shields to the outside and spears for offense it was also called "the turtle". The legion was much more maneuverable, consisting of units of soldiers, each with an independent commander. This change made possible the victories over Mediterranean arch-rival Carthage in the Punic Wars of the 3rd century BC. As the Romans created their empire, a pattern became evident which was later to extend to Britain. The Romans tended to expand into areas of economic worth, such as Sicily, where grain was cheap. They provided an opportunity for local rulers to become part of the Roman infrastructure, respecting local traditions and not requiring tribute if the population became Roman citizens. These citizens and the city of Rome benefitted from a guaranteed free trade relationship. The empire was controlled by the Senate, which was made up of the major landholding patricians of Rome. Over the years, the Senators succumbed to bribes from commercial interests, particularly in the area of army procurement. As the Senate lost control of the army, it began losing battles on the frontiers of the Empire. Control of army contigents became personal; instead of the Senate determining deployment and strategy, private commanders often with private armies became the order of the day around the 2nd century BC. These private armies gave their loyalty to their commander, who paid them in conquered land, rather than to Rome. Julius Caesar was one of these commanders. He held high office, then left to conquer Gaul, his popularity increasing as reports of his military successes came back to Rome. Eventually he took over Rome itself, becoming a dictator which was legal under the republican constitution. He enlarged the Roman concept of empire, and established Roman colonies to ease overpopulation, allowing many more "foreigners" to become citizens. He came again in 54 BC with a greater force, but when Gaul rebelled he had to return to the continent. The next attempt was made in AD 43, an invasion ordered by emperor Claudius. The reason was to go after the Druids, who seemed to be providing leadership for rebellious Druids and Celts in Gaul. By 47, the Romans had conquered the lowlands and built a road. But they faced two centers of resistance. The first was the Island of Anglesey north Wales , a center of Druid culture; the Romans massacred the Druids there in 61, ending resistance. The second was Iceni East Anglia , where Queen Boudicca rebelled after she had been flogged by the Romans, who had also raped her daughters. She led her tribe and others, killing thousands of Roman soldiers. The battle was a good example of how the Roman legion was superior to other methods of war. Watch another brief clip from "In Search of History: Here historians discuss the Roman perception of the Celts. Despite this, the Romans held formation, protected by shields and flexible armor, moving in a wedge and throwing 7-foot javelins while heavy cavalry surrounded the enemy. There was no mainstream migration of Romans, only 60, soldiers and officials. After AD the Romans ruled from three garrisons: Caerleon in South Wales, Chester where wall reconstruction is underway in the northwest, and York in the North. These garrisons were connected to Londinium London with miles of roads. The Romans were unable to conquer Scotland, which would have required another legion and another garrison. Since by the 2nd century it was apparent that Rome was in trouble and could not afford such an expenditure, two walls were built to keep out the Scots: The Romans were an urban people, and the towns they built in Britain were a tool for rule, civilization, and the tempting of Celtic chieftains into Roman cooperation. The first four towns were Colchester, Gloucester "cester" is from the Latin "castra", meaning camp or fortified town , Lincoln, and York. These towns introduced Britain to the idea of a grid layout, the concept that towns ruled over the

countryside, public baths, forums and shops, magistrates to enforce the law, Latin literacy, and Roman masonry including tiled roofs and mosaics. The last great town was Londinium itself, built not as a military outpost but as an economic entity. The name "London" is Celtic, and the city was sited where the River Thames was easiest to bridge, providing an inland port where the river was still wide enough for ocean-going ships. The countryside of Britain changed little during the Roman period, except for the great villas build by the wealthy landholders. These landholders included both superior Roman officials, and Briton chieftains. About of these "Romanized" villas were build, some with rooms, a courtyard, warm-water heating, glazed windows, and bathrooms. Such a standard of domestic life was not achieved again until the 18th century! The estates were worked by tenants and slaves. But outside these enclaves, the Celtic farm survived. The Romans added little to agricultural techniques but many crops: The towns did provide a better market for agricultural goods, but the government took about half the grain crop as taxes. Because of this, some landholders turned to raising wool instead. Most of the villas were located in the Cotswolds , the prime area for raising sheep. So many theories have been promoted that I once took a final examination for a Western Civ class that had one question on it: The basic causes are simple. When the empire reached its limit, the flow of tribute into Rome and the supply of slaves also ended. The army was spread too thin, and since recruits were drafted from small landholders, agricutural productivity declined. Second, the tax distribution was unfair, since patricians were exempt, putting the burden on the middle class in the towns and the tenant farmers. Third, the government was corrupt, with the army increasingly involved in politics. Emperors-to-be pulled troops from the frontier to help them gain the throne, then the same troops would kill the emperor and put in someone they liked better. In Britain, troops were pulled to the continent for every Gallic rebellion. Last, the frontiers of the empire were continually threatenedd by the mass migrations of people from the east, who the Romans called "barbarians". Beginning in China, and probably the result of a global climate change, groups were migrating from east to west along the Eurasian continent, each group pushing the next westward. The result in Britain was a migration of Picts and Scots from the north, and Saxons from the east. During these migrations, the wealthy Britons took advantage of the absence of Roman legions to push out the remains of the Roman army. They organized their own defense, wanting to be rid of the burdensome taxes of Rome, and kicked the Romans out. In Britain, then, the legacy of the Romans was minimal. They only really impacted the Romanized elite in the towns and villas, where the rich wore Roman clothes, spoke Latin, took baths, and worshipped Roman gods. The only lasting legacy was Christianity. The Romans had persecuted Christianity until the 4th century, when emperor Constantine converted on his deathbed after developing a new capital far to the east. Both Celts and Romans in Britain converted due to the efforts of numerous missionaries from the Roman Church, and Christianity became engrained in British culture. This is because one of the most important contribution the Germanic peoples made to Britain was in the area of language. You have already read about Germanic people in the first document I assigned, The Germania by Tacitus , a Roman writer. I will be highlighting your documents within the lecture, so you can refer to them as you read. So we can now tie together the impression of the Germans left us by Tacitus with the flow of British history. King Arthur was a medieval hero whose history is supposed to derive from this period, after the Romans had left and as the Germanic peoples were invading. Arthur, if he existed, would have lived between and He may have fought at the seige of Badon, where the Germanic tribes Angles, Saxons and Jutes were held back by defending Britons. Arthur is a Celtic hero fighting against the invaders, although he may also have been a remaining Roman, since the name Arthur is not Celtic. The Germanic invaders later called Anglo-Saxons had the Germanic love of freedom, and other virtues such as chaste women and military prowess that Tacitus emphasized because he felt Rome was failing in these areas. Tacitus mentioned that the Germans worshipped Mother Earth, so this was a pagan invasion against a partly Christianized country a situation which can make Arthur a Christian Celtic hero and thus acceptable to the later Church for use as a chivalric symbol of Christianity -- but I digress. The Anglo-Saxon language became the root for English, and even today English has strong similarities to the German, Dutch and Danish which evolved in the other regions occupied by the Germanic tribes. The Anglo-Saxons defeated the Britons in the area now called, because of them, England. The Celtic Britons they called wealas, or foreigners, the foundation for the word Welsh. These people and their language remained in Wales, Ireland,

and Scotland. Despite the fact that these Celts lived next to the English derived from Anglii for one of the Germanic tribes , the evolution of the English language was not much affected by Celtic tongues. Old English contains only a few Celtic words, mostly to refer to geographic features like combe for deep valley, as in High Wycombe with which the invaders were unfamiliar. The Story of English discusses place names to show the regions of various cultural influence. The town of Cheetwood in Lancashire is particularly telling, since cheet already means wood in Celtic. Almost all agricultural words sheep, shepherd, ox, earth, plough, swine, field, work and fun words glee, laughter, mirth, merry are Anglo-Saxon. But the lack of writing can be an advantage, and it was here. For one thing, preliterate peoples have far better memories than literate people. Because nothing is written, memory is trained to a level that is no longer seen today. Germanic tribal people could remember, word for word, a ten-hour poem such as Beowulf that they had only heard once. They could remember their own history and pass it down. They could also have more fun with words, since definitions could be fluid and meanings could be freely adapted. Even today the English are famous for their word-play, and verbal humour.

Chapter 8 : BBC Bitesize - How did the Romans change Britain?

Roman Britain (Latin: Britannia or, later, Britanniae, "the Britains") was the area of the island of Great Britain that was governed by the Roman Empire, from 43 to AD. [2]: [3] It comprised almost all of England and Wales and, for a short period, southern Scotland.

How did the Romans change Britain? The city of Rome was under attack and the empire was falling apart, so the Romans had to leave to take care of matters back home. After they left, the country fell into chaos. Native tribes and foreign invaders battled each other for power. Many of the Roman towns in Britain crumbled away as people went back to living in the countryside. But even after they were gone, the Romans left their mark all over the country. They gave us new towns, plants, animals, a new religion and ways of reading and counting. When the Romans arrived in AD43, they introduced new ideas and ways of living to Britain. Watch the video to find out more. From stinging nettles to sewers - find out how the Romans changed Britain Roman roads Britain had no proper roads before the Romans - there were just muddy tracks. So the Romans built new roads all across the landscape â€" over 16,km 10, miles in fact! The Romans knew that the shortest distance from one place to another is a straight line. So they made all their roads as straight as possible to get around quickly. They built their roads on foundations of clay, chalk and gravel. They laid bigger flat stones on top. Roman roads bulged in the middle and had ditches either side, to help the rainwater drain off. Some Roman roads have been converted into motorways and main roads we use today. You can still find a few places where the original Roman road is still visible, too. Bits of Roman road can still be seen. Soldiers and carts used this cobbled road to travel between Manchester and Yorkshire. Below you can see a few famous places where you can still see Roman remains in Britain. What Roman ruins are there? It ran for 73 miles from Wallsend-on-Tyne to Bowness. People came here to get fit, get clean and meet friends. The Romans realised it was a good place for a warm dip, because the water is naturally heated by the rocks deep below the ground. Archaeologists have uncovered barracks and a bathhouse inside. There was also a nearby harbour and this amphitheatre, where soldiers were entertained by gladiator fights. Before the Romans came, the native Britons were pagans. They believed in lots of different gods and spirits. They let the Britons worship their own gods, as long as they were respectful of the Roman ones too. Christianity arrived in Britain during the second century. At first only a few people became Christian. When Christianity started to get popular, the Romans banned it. Christians refused to worship the Roman emperor and anyone who was caught following the new religion could be whipped or even executed. By the beginning of the 4th century, more and more people were following Christianity. By , Christianity was the official Roman religion, but pagan beliefs were still popular in Britain. Constantine was the first Roman emperor to allow Christians to worship. He later became a Christian himself. Language, writing and numbers Before the Romans came, very few people could read or write in Britain. Instead, information was usually passed from person to person by word of mouth. The Romans wrote down their history, their literature and their laws. However, it only really caught on in the new Roman towns - most people living in the countryside stuck to their old Celtic language. Our coins are based on a Roman design and some of the lettering is in Latin. Some clocks today still use Roman numbers. Can you tell what the time is? How did the Romans change towns? The Romans introduced the idea of living in big towns and cities. Roman towns were laid out in a grid. After the Romans, the next group of people to settle in Britain were the Anglo-Saxons. They were farmers, not townspeople. They abandoned many of the Roman towns and set up new kingdoms, but some Roman towns continued to exist and still exist today. When the Romans invaded, they built a fort beside the River Thames. This was where traders came from all over the empire to bring their goods to Britain. It grew and grew, until it was the most important city in Roman Britain. The Romans built walls around many of their towns. Some are even standing today, like this one in Colchester.

Chapter 9 : Whos Who in Roman Britain and Anglo-Saxon England (Whos Who in British History), | eBay

After the Romans, the next group of people to settle in Britain were the Anglo-Saxons. They were farmers, not townspeople. It grew and grew, until it was the most important city in Roman Britain.

Lion with forked tail standing left. Church architecture and artefacts provide a useful source of historical information. It is not entirely clear how many Britons would have been Christian when the pagan Anglo-Saxons arrived. However, Sussex and the Isle of Wight remained mainly pagan until the arrival of Saint Wilfrid , the exiled Archbishop of York, who converted Sussex around and the Isle of Wight in The ecclesiastical writers tended to declare a territory as "converted" merely because the local king had agreed to be baptised, regardless of whether, in reality, he actually adopted Christian practices; and regardless, too, of whether the general population of his kingdom did. Danelaw , Viking Age , and Alfred the Great Map of England in showing the extent of the Danelaw Between the 8th and 11th centuries, raiders and colonists from Scandinavia, mainly Danish and Norwegian, plundered western Europe, including the British Isles. Saxon and medieval work on Roman foundations. This was reinforced in by the Great Summer Army. Northumbria in , East Anglia in , and nearly all of Mercia in Only the Kingdom of Wessex was able to survive. In May he put together an army formed from the populations of Somerset, Wiltshire, and Hampshire, which defeated the Viking army in the Battle of Edington. The formal ceremony was completed a few days later at Wedmore. He mainly used old Roman cities for his burhs, as he was able to rebuild and reinforce their existing fortifications. The Vikings were thereafter unable to cross large sections of Wessex: He or his court commissioned the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, which was written in Old English rather than in Latin, which was the language of the European annals. Consequently, the death of a Wessex king would be followed by rebellion, particularly in Northumbria. England under the Danes and the Norman conquest â€" Viking longboat replica in Ramsgate , Kent Two years after his coronation at Bath, Edgar died while still only in his early thirties. Even the Alfredian systems of burhs failed. It is reckoned there were about moneyers, and 60 mints, around the country. However, rather than buying the Vikings off, payment of Danegeld only encouraged them to come back for more. The result was that the courts of England and Normandy became increasingly hostile to each other. However, on 3 February Sven died suddenly. Stigand, the Archbishop of Canterbury, was chosen to deliver the news to Godwin and his family. The Godwins, having previously fled, threatened to invade England. Edward is said to have wanted to fight, but at a Great Council meeting in Westminster, Earl Godwin laid down all his weapons and asked the king to allow him to purge himself of all crimes.