

2. WHO WERE THE ANGLO-SAXONS?

The Angles and Saxons came to Britain from Germany and Denmark. They arrived after Roman rule ended in Britain (410 CE).

By the 8th century, most Anglo-Saxon people were Christians, living in farming communities.

In the north, scattered farms were common. In the south, small villages formed. Houses were made of wood and thatch. They must have been damp and draughty.



Reconstruction of an Anglo-Saxon village

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Religion

Monasteries were important in Anglo-Saxon England. In them, monks and nuns studied and prayed.

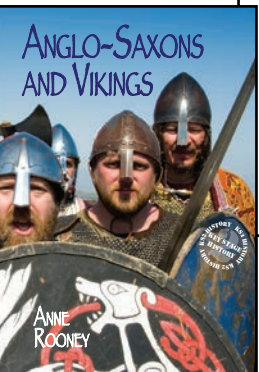
Printing had not yet been invented, and all books were written by hand. They were made in the monasteries, and were written in Latin, the language of the Romans.



The books were often decorated with ornate, coloured pictures and letters.

Page from the Lindisfarne Gospel, a book handwritten by Anglo-Saxon monks

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2. WHAT'S A CRIME?

Some acts are crimes in all times and places. Murder and theft are crimes everywhere. But other acts are crimes only sometimes and not at others.

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT!

It used to be a crime for a woman to nag her husband! She might have to wear a scold's bridle – a painful metal mask with a spiked plate – to stop her talking.

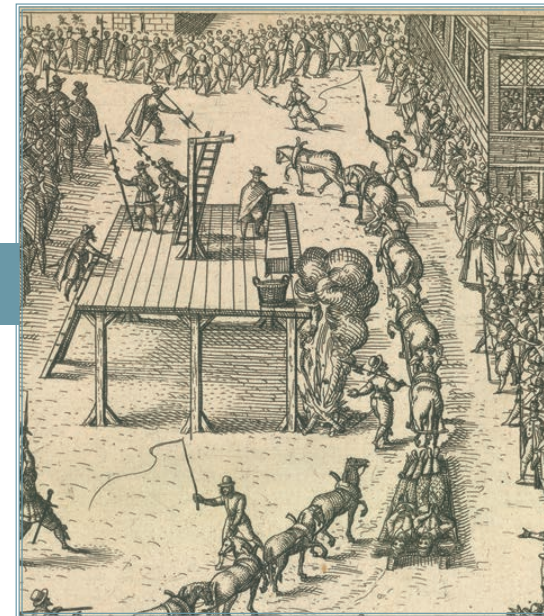


A scold's bridle. These were used in the 16th and 17th centuries.



Some crimes go out of date. A common crime in the 1700s was 'coin-clipping' – shaving metal from the edges of coins. That doesn't happen now.

It used to be a crime to practise witchcraft. The punishment was death. Now, most people don't believe there is any such thing as witchcraft. It is no longer criminal, and we no longer punish any crimes with death.



Criminals being dragged to the scaffold – the platform from which many who practised witchcraft were hanged

2. THE ROMAN EMPIRE

In their early years the Romans were ruled by kings. In about 509 BCE they overthrew their king and created a republic in which the people elected their rulers.

In the first century BCE the republic fell. Rome became an empire, ruled by one man, known as the emperor.



Statue of Augustus, the first Roman emperor

The Roman army

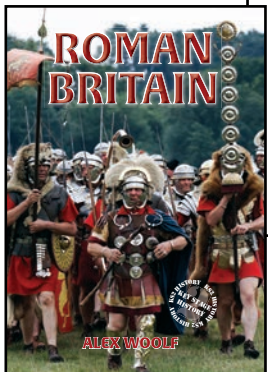
The Romans conquered so many lands because they had a powerful army. Roman soldiers were well-trained and had very good weapons and armour.

Soldiers signed up to fight for twenty years. After that time they were usually given some land to farm and live on.



HISTORY HIGHLIGHT!

Roman soldiers could march 30 km a day wearing armour.



2. THE STONE AGE

Early humans were hunter-gatherers. They moved around, hunting, fishing, and collecting fruit, berries, nuts and roots to eat.

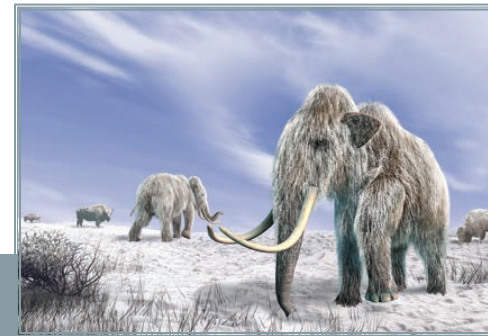
This was the Stone Age. People made tools like axes and spear-heads from a flaky stone called flint. They chipped bits off the flint to make a sharp edge.



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Since people first arrived, there have been several very cold periods, called ice ages. At other times, it was warmer than it is in modern Britain.

When it was cold, humans left Britain – sometimes for thousands of years.



HISTORY HIGHLIGHT!

Can you imagine living through an ice age? The land was covered in thick ice. It would be freezing!

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STONE AGE TO
IRON AGE BRITAIN



2. BEFORE THE SUMERIANS

The first settlers in Mesopotamia lived in the north. They found the land fertile – good for growing crops.

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT!

Mesopotamia is part of a curved area of land often called the 'fertile crescent' because the soil is so rich. This area stretches northwest through Jordan and Egypt.

Each year, the rivers swelled and flooded the plains, carrying silt which enriched the soil.

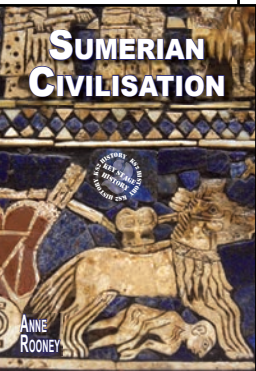
From 5500–4800 BCE, people drained the marshes and began to farm the land.

These people produced the Samarra culture. The people who moved south from the Samarran area became the Sumerians.

TIMELINE

This timeline shows the major events of the Sumerian civilisation. It starts with the Samarra culture.

APPROXIMATE DATE	EVENT
c. 6000 BCE	Samarra people irrigate farmland in Mesopotamia
Before 5000 BCE	People move to settle in southern Mesopotamia, forming Sumer
4100–4000 BCE	Rapid growth of cities in Sumer
3500–2400 BCE	Writing develops, first as pictograms and then as script
2300 BCE	Sargon of Akkad conquers Sumer
2300–2200 BCE	Sumer is part of the Akkadian Empire
2100–2000 BCE	Sumerian troops defeat the Akkadians
2000 BCE	Invading Elamites destroy the city of Ur
1800 BCE	The Babylonian king, Hammurabi, unites Sumer with Babylon
1750 BCE	Invaders arrive and ransack Ur; end of the Sumerian civilisation



2. DAILY LIFE

Celtic society

The Celts in Britain were divided into tribes, each ruled by a king or queen.

The tribes were made up of groups of close-knit families called clans, led by nobles. The nobles were landowners. In times of war, they were military leaders.



King and nobles wore neck rings called torcs.

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Beneath the nobles were craftworkers, druids (priests) and bards (singers and storytellers). Below them were farmers. At the very bottom were slaves, who were people captured in war.

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT!

The people of Iron Age Britain weren't called Celts until the 1700s. The Romans called them Britons.



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2. THE MAYAN PEOPLE

For most of their history, the Mayans lived in small villages as simple farmers.

From around 250 CE, they began clearing areas of rainforest and building large cities connected by well-constructed roads. Every city had a central plaza, temples and a ball court.



El Castillo, a large temple pyramid in the Mayan city of Chichen Itza in Mexico

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The Mayans were a highly skilled people. They made fine pottery, jewellery and richly decorated clothing. They charted the movement of the planets, developed a number system and wrote books about medicine, history and nature.



Decorated Mayan pot, from Honduras, made some time between 700 and 900 CE

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT!

The Mayans did not have metal tools. They built their cities using tools of stone, wood and shell.

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THE MAYANS

2. SHANG SOCIETY

The king was the most powerful person in Shang society. Beneath him were the nobles, followed by the priests, soldiers, craftspeople, merchants, farmers and slaves.

The king had a team of officials to help him rule. They may have been members of his family. The officials organised the collection of taxes from the farmers.



King Tang of Shang, the first king of the Shang dynasty

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Burials

We know how important people were from the way they were buried. Kings and nobles had large tombs filled with beautiful objects. The poorest people were buried in small pits in the ground.

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT!

Hundreds of slaves were buried alive in the royal tomb along with the dead king.



The royal tomb of Queen Fu Hao, who died in 1200 BCE

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