

Around the year 500, during the time of the legendary Celtic **Mr. Bean / King Arthur**, Germanic Angles and Saxons invaded the country by the east coast (present-day East Anglia) and founded **democracies / kingdoms** such as Norfolk, Suffolk (“North and South Peoples”), Wessex (“West Saxons”), Mercia, and Northumbria.

The first towns appeared in the 7th century, but most Anglo-Saxons **didn’t want to work / remained free farmers**. In the 8th and 9th centuries, Viking attacks could only be repelled with **help of US-soldiers / great difficulty**.



In their **horse-drawn wagons / fast ships**, raiding and plundering men from **Russia / Scandinavia** sailed along the coasts or even **down / up** the Thames, striking fear into the population and **bringing Christianity to them / taking particular delight in plundering monasteries**. In 878, King Alfred the Great defeated the Vikings **and chased them out of the country. / but allowed them to settle in East Anglia**.

Vikings

In 1066, the British Isles were conquered **for the first time / one last time**. Duke William of Normandy, who would later be nicknamed “the **Conductor / Conqueror**,” landed in England with an army. He defeated the Anglo-Saxons under **Harold at Hastings / Winston at Churchill** and had himself crowned King of England. He introduced a **strict feudal system / dictatorship of the proletariat**. The Normans oppressed the Anglo-Saxons and turned them into **dukes / serfs**. The ruling Norman nobility spoke French and wrote in **Latin / Esperanto**, while Anglo-Saxon became the language of the **underestimated / uneducated**. Modern English is a mixture of French and German.



The Bayeux Tapestry—a medieval comic that tells the story of the Norman Conquest

Only about **100,000 / 6,000** Normans occupied the country. The ruins of the Norman castles bear witness to the **military might / spiritual influence** without which the invaders could not have held the conquered territories. The Church established itself as another power. Its significance is evident in the **majestic cathedrals / small chapels** built in the Norman style during that period.

A power struggle between **Arsenal and West Ham United / the Church and the king** reached a climax in 1170 with the murder of **Robin Hood / Thomas Becket**, the Archbishop of Canterbury. Then, in 1215, the barons **begged / forced** the king to sign the Magna Carta, which made the Church **dependent / independent** of the king and granted rights to the nobility - thus significantly limiting the monarch's authority - a state of affairs that **has been changed lately / continued to this day**.



Archers at Agincourt

During the Hundred Years' War from 1337 to 1453, the English kings attempted to assert their claims to the French throne by **negotiation / force of arms**. For the most part, the English were victorious - including at Agincourt in 1415. But then, when **Florence**

Nightingale / Joan of Arc led the French troops, the tide of war turned rapidly, and the English were able to hold on to only **Paris / Calais** on the continent.

In the 16th century, during the Reformation, King Henry VIII wanted to marry the lady-in-waiting **Anne Boleyn / Pippi Longstocking**, but the Pope refused to grant him a divorce.

Henry VIII

So, the king **forgot his love / simply founded his own church**. His daughter Mary wanted to restore Catholicism, but under her half-sister Elizabeth I, the Anglican Church **disappeared / became firmly established**.

