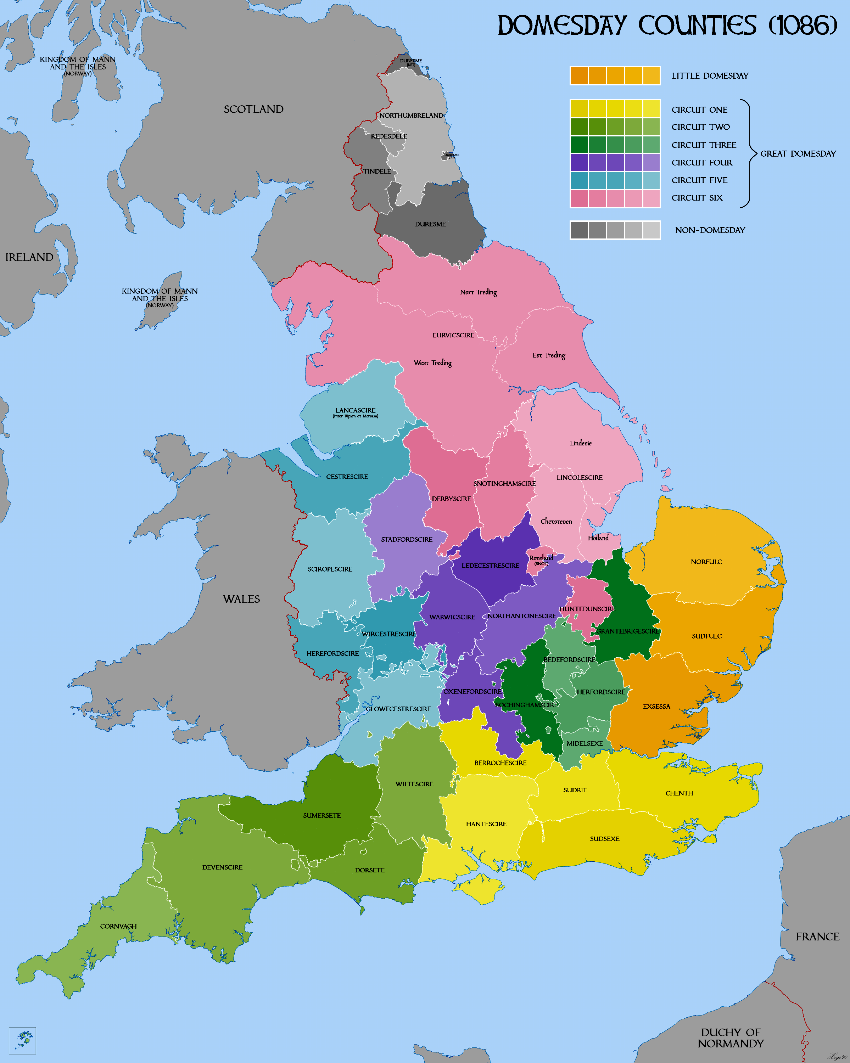
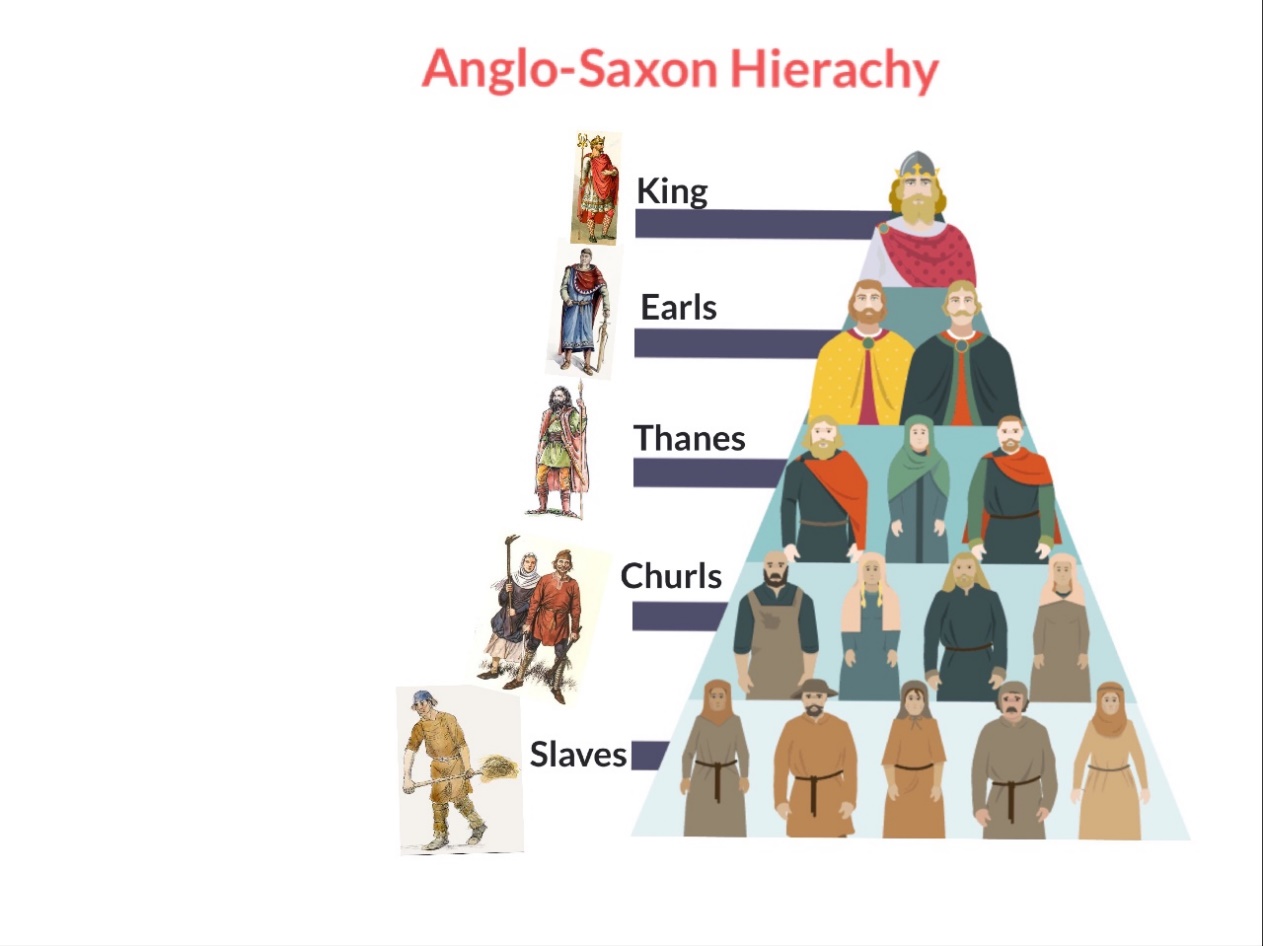
**A Time-Jumper’s Guide to 1066 England**

**Who were the Anglo-Saxons?**

* Main people of England from Mid 400s-1066
* Before them, the Romans had ruled.
* Romans were the most famous civilization of ancient times
* Romans had conquered most of Europe, and had arrived in year 43 CE, eventually conquering most of the island
* They called the land Brittania where we get our modern word Britain.
* Romans left in 410 when Alaric and the Goths sacked Rome.
* All Roman soldiers were withdrawn leaving the country defenceless and open for conquest
* Anglo-Saxons came during this period
* Three primary tribes from North Germany & Denmark
  + Angles
  + Saxons
  + Jutes
* Conquered most of the island, except for the Scots in modern Scotland and the Celts in modern day Wales
* **Side Note:** The word Wales comes from the Anglo-Saxon word “wealas”, meaning “foreigner”
* Anglo-Saxon period ended in 1066 when conquered by Normans who came from Normandy in modern France

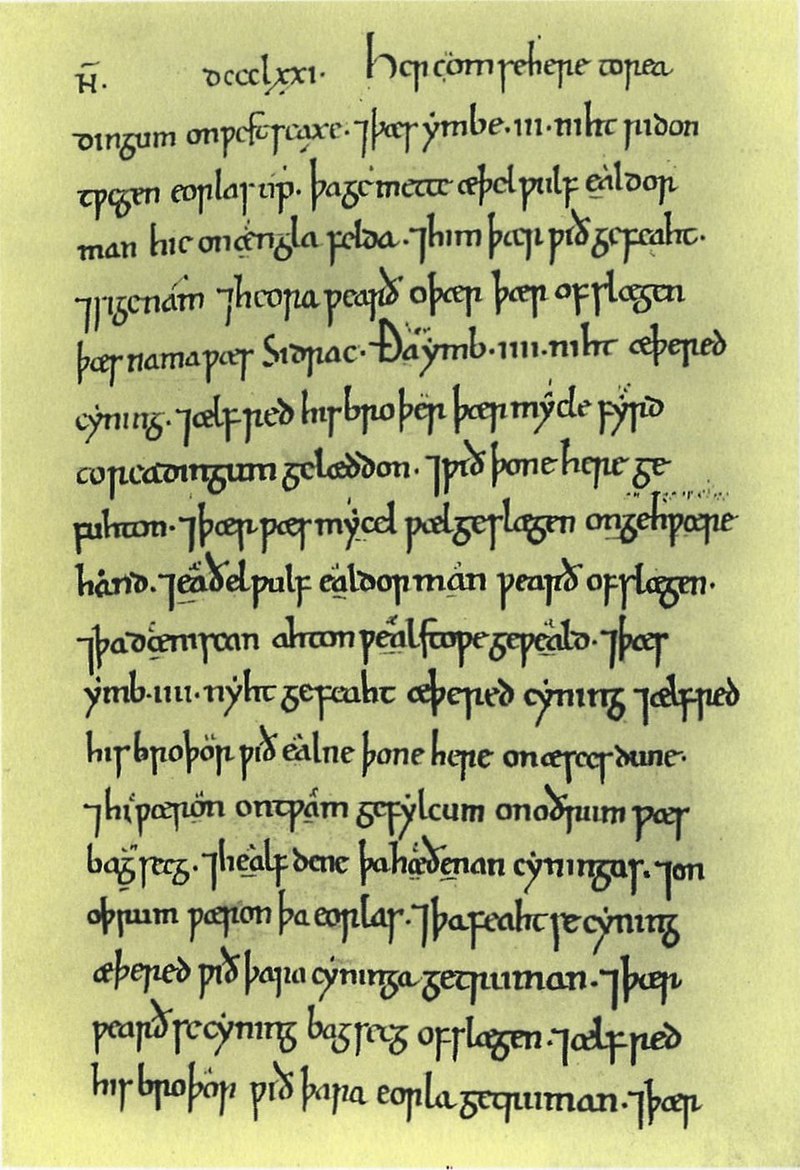
**Image Source:** https://www.worldhistory.org/uploads/images/9474.png?v=1616425202

**Who Controlled things?**

* The population for the whole of England in 1066 was around 1.5 million people
* ****Modern day England about 60 million
* So the population was very sparse, with only about 15 towns with more than 1000 people living there
* London – capital of modern day England - had a population of about 15,000
* Ruling this all was one king
* 6 earls – had huge amounts of power – ruled the equivalent of provinces
* 4-6,000 thegns – local landowners who provided military service to the king
* 80% of the population was churls – Tenant farmers on a thegn’s land.
* **Side note:** The modern word “churlish”, which means “rude in a [mean-spirited](https://www.google.com/search?q=mean-spirited&si=ACFMAn_0bWhb_Mv__RK5Qa4gQeQPj3uPpKoVnGhITSUz3_CWPGY1SbanuZ3fSKXPO8oc6idgLcmsq298RBKR2eQh2IyAu-B-xGjmRYdF6b_ydC79Pi7R-PA%3D&expnd=1) and [surly](https://www.google.com/search?q=surly&si=ACFMAn_Hp-Itxgrvlkmz06srbzjKm_gbFPo3wdnAsqmzVqzSxl-qiAQIX7EG9Ywp-F9CY_zBVNWvuvnPOmY0QfXW55Ow5AxaSg%3D%3D&expnd=1) way” comes from the word churl. So you can see how much the upper classes appreciated the workers on their land
* 10% of population were slaves
* Yes, slavery existed – Usually economic slaves. Couldn’t pay fines or were guilty of a crime.

**Image Source:** https://www.thinglink.com/scene/1411443396282679298

**What language did they speak?**

*Godne dæg*

*Wilcume to Englaland on geare þusend sixtig six.*

**Translation:**

Good Day

Welcome to England in the year thousand sixty six.

* Looks likely badly spelled modern English. It sounds like modern English, with a bit of an accent, and all the “silent” e’s are pronounced.
* Note that England was spelled “Englaland” which translates as “Land of the Angles”
* Note that that Old English had some letters we no longer use--these were brought over from runes.
* Thorn þ – “th” like “thud”
* **Side note:** The thorn remained in the language until the age of printing presses. Due to the letter thorn þ not being available, it became common practice to use a y instead, leading to "ye". (So Ye Olde Bake Shop = The Old Bake Shop)
* So if this is “OLD” English, what happened to the language?
* Norman conquest in 1066
* Normans spoke French
* French became the language of nobles -- considered fancier (e.g. Old English cow, pig, sheep, vs Norman French beef, pork, mutton. OE feather vs FR plume, OE begin vs FR commence)
* But French wasn’t the only addition
* Latin was the language of the church.
* Greek was the language of science.
* Other words from other languages were added over time (e.g. kayak from Inuit, raccoon from Algonquin)
* Old English words make up only one quarter of our modern language, but when talking about day-to-day vocabulary, estimates of up to 70% of the words in use are Old English

**Image Source:** https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Anglo-Saxon\_Chronicle\_-\_C\_-\_871.jpg

**What did they wear?**

* Long sleeve tunics, hose/pants, simple shoes, limited decoration
* Style is very different from modern styles
* Style isn’t the only thing different from modern clothes, so is the type of cloth used.
* Modern day clothing is usually some form of non-natural fiber like polyester or rayon. Rubber on shoes.
* These fibres did not exist in Anglo-Saxon times



* Instead they used **o**nly natural fabrics.
* Most common was wool. England was actually the largest wool exporter in Europe at the time.
* Richer people had clothes from linen. Fur was a luxury trim.
* As for silk it was rare and very expensive, usually it was only used by royalty.
* No cotton. It doesn’t grow well in Europe. Needs a hot climate.
* So where did they get their clothes?
* There was no Walmart, Amazon, or malls.
* Churls had to make their own clothes. Shear the sheep, card the wool, spin it into yarn, then use a loom to create the cloth.
* Leather for belts and shoes, sometimes cloaks (no leather pants—hundreds of years later)
* Head coverings of different types were a regular part of Anglo-Saxon women’s clothes

**Image Source:** https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/domesday/images/bl-harvesting.jpg

**Where did they live?**

* When most people think of medieval times, they think of castles
* But … Castles did not exist as we know them in Anglo-Saxon times.
* There might have been some defensive forts, but no huge castles like in the movies
* Manor houses did exist
* Some were wood, and the most expensive were made of stone
* But, these were for the rich. The average churl would live in a hut made of wood with roofs thatched with straw.
* Much of England was covered with forests. Lots of wood for building.
* Everything done by hand. Cut trees down, saw into planks, or split from the trunk using wedges.
* No windows. Glass was VERY expensive.
* The houses were built facing the sun to get as much heat and light as possible.
* Usually had a pen for animals.
* Bathroom outside
* In some instances animals were kept inside the homes. Extra body heat during winter. But smell. Kept in separate pens.
* No carpets. Floors warmed by straw.
* Central fire was the main heat and light source.
* Some people might use oil lamps for light. Candles were rare. Wax was expensive, and tallow candles burned quickly & made the room smell like bacon.
* Clusters of houses would be built together for protection and form a village
* The villages were built near water sources.
* Forests would be cut down for farm land.
* Usually villages had a high fence to keep the herds safe at night from enemies and the wild animals of the forests - wolves, foxes and boars.
* No roads in the villages. No sidewalks. No garbage disposal. No sewer system.
* Very little garbage--very little was wasted in Anglo-Saxon times.
* No food packaging. No plastic. No Styrofoam.

**Image Source:** https://www.britainexpress.com/images/attractions/editor3/West-Stow-7762.jpg

**What did they eat?**

* Each family had to grow its own food. No stores if something ran out.
* If the harvest was bad, a family would have to eat roots, leaves, acorns and wild berries or die.



* Grow wheat and rye for bread and oats for porridge.
* VEGETABLE - carrots, parsnip, cabbages, peas, spinach and onions.
* Other vegetables like potatoes, tomatoes, and corn were from the New World and therefore not known
* FRUIT –crab apples, plums and cherries.
* Other fruits like limes, lemons, and melons were from India and the Mediterranean and not imported because of the distance
* Very little meat. Most animals were kept for things other than meat and were only killed when they became old or ill.
* Chickens for eggs. Sheep for wool. Goats for milk.
* Only the rich could afford beef.
* Saxon food included a variety of fresh fish and preserved it by smoking, salting, drying and pickling.
* Drink - Most people drank a weak beer instead of water – brewing purified the water
* Minimal spices. Some salt. Natural herbs like fennel
* Honey would have been used to sweeten dishes as there was no sugar.

**Image Source:** https://blogs.bl.uk/.a/6a00d8341c464853ef022ad3553c66200c-500wi

**How did they travel?**

* Fastest way to get places or to move large amount of things was by boat (roughly 10 km/h)
* No tractor trailers.
* Ships were very expensive to build. No power tools.
* Used by merchants and the nobles.
* Restricted by wind and weather. No sailing during winter or during bad winds.
* The rich would ride horses if they travelled long distances.
* Anglo-Saxons did not use their horses in war. They rode to battle, then got off the horse and fought on foot.
* King Harold did his famous race from London to York = 300 km in 4 days. (Like Mississauga to Kingston or Peterborough to London Ontario)
* Most people walked. But there was very little reason to go to other places.
* Most stayed in their own village.
* Farmer might take surplus to the nearest market and exchange it for any one of the many things that would be needed around the farm: iron, salt, fish, etc.
* Roads and dirt tracks between villages did exist, especially the Roman roads that had been built hundreds of years previously
* Roads were not maintained

**Image Source:** <https://www.bayeuxmuseum.com/en/the-bayeux-tapestry/discover-the-bayeux-tapestry/explore-online/#explore>

Official Bayeux Tapestry digital representation · Eleventh century · Credentials: City of Bayeux, DRAC Normandie, University of Caen Normandie, CNRS, ENSICAEN, Pictures: 2017 - la Fabrique de patrimoines en Normandie

**How did they spend their days?**

* In Anglo-Saxon times, there were no schools
* Only the rich could afford to be educated.
* Most people could not read or write.
* Anglo-Saxon children had to grow up quickly. By the time they were twelve to fourteen, they were seen as an adult. Most were married in their mid teens.
* Girls worked in the home. They were in charge of housekeeping, weaving cloth, sewing, cooking meals (which included slaughtering any animals), making cheese and brewing ale.
* Boys learned to chop down trees with an axe, collect firewood, turn trees into boards, thatch roofs, plough a field, grow crops, and harvest.
* Because of limited light sources. People awake at dawn, asleep at sunset.



* Everyone was a Christian and went to church, so Sunday was a rest day
* Churches were also usually the only stone buildings in the village.
* For entertainment people played board games or simple instruments like flute or drum

**Image Source:** https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/domesday/images/bl-plowing.jpg

**Crime and Punishment**

* There was no police force in Anglo-Saxons times
* People relied on collective responsibility within communities to stop crime
* If a call for help is made all bystanders have to assist in catching the criminal.
* If a villager did not help, they were expected to pay a fine.
* In addition, groups of up to 10 males (over 12 years age) were divided into units called tithings
* Were responsible for each other’s behaviour.
* If one person from the group broke a law, the other members would be responsible for taking them to court or paying a fine.
* Each tithing was grouped into a hundred
* Hundred = court in which private disputes and criminal matters were settled by customary law
* Met once a month, generally in the open air, at a time and place known to everyone
* Led by a hundredman who acted as judge
* There were two types of trial used in Anglo-Saxon England to determine guilt
* Jury Trial - Made up of men from the village tithing who knew the accuser and the accused. The jury would listen to accounts from both, and possibly witnesses, before deciding who was telling the truth.
* Trial by Ordeal -- God would decide whether the person was guilty or not. Methods of trial by ordeal included:
  + Trial by hot iron/water - Accused held a burning hot weight in their hand or stuck their hand in boiling water to pick up an object. Their hand would then be bandaged. If after three days the wound had healed, it was believed that God had judged the person to be innocent
  + Trial by blessed bread - The accused would eat bread. If they ate the bread without choking, it was believed that God had judged the person to be innocent
  + Trial by cold water - The accused was tied to a rope and lowered into water. If the accused floated, it was believed that the water had rejected them and that God had judged them guilty
* Three methods of punishment
  + Capital punishment was used as a punishment for treason.
  + Corporal punishment - Beatings or mutilation, such as cutting off someone’s hand. This was used for repeat offenders and was intended to deter them from committing the crime again.
  + Humiliation - The pillory and stocks were also used as punishments to shame the criminal

**Image Source:** http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?ref=Cotton\_MS\_Claudius\_B\_IV