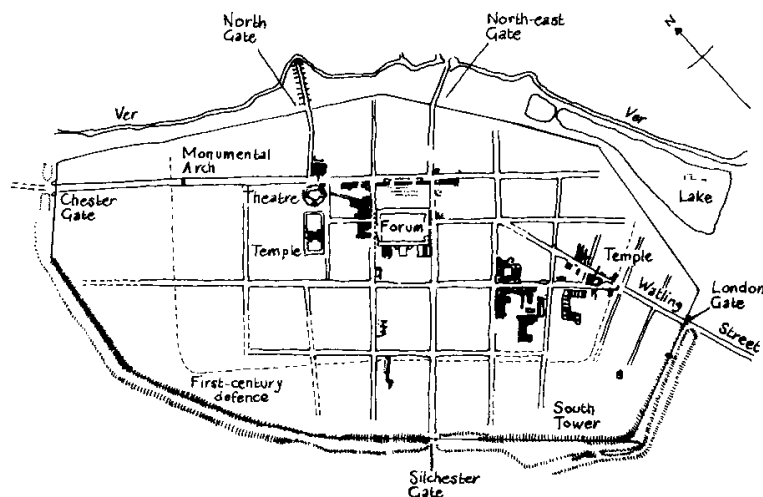


## Towns

The Romans built Britain's first towns. Unlike the Celtic hill-forts, they were sited on low ground. They soon became important places for meetings and trade. The streets were arranged in grids. In the middle there was a large square, called the forum. It was used as a market place and for meetings. It had shops and offices on three sides and government offices on the other side.

There were temples where the Roman gods were worshipped. Some towns had public baths, an open-air theatre and huge monumental (built only for show) arches.

By the 3rd century AD (the years 201-300) most towns were surrounded by stone walls.



*A plan of Verulamium*

## Something to do

A century is a period of 100 years. The first century AD went from 1 to 100 AD, the second century from 101 to 200, and so on.

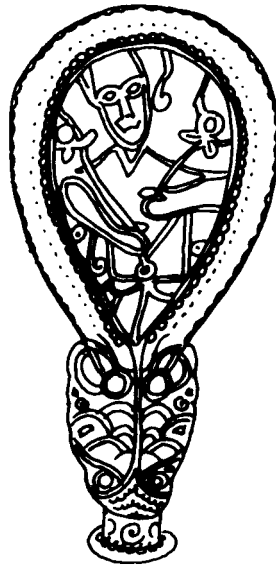
Give the dates of these centuries:

- 1 5th century: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 9th century: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 20th century: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

...and artists

As well as writing and decorating books, the Anglo-Saxons created many other beautiful things.

They wrote poetry and made music. Their craftworkers produced wonderful jewelry, tapestry (weaving) and carvings. Much Anglo-Saxon work has been lost. From what remains it is clear that they were a most talented people.



*King Alfred's Jewel*

### Pagan gods

Christians called the Anglo-Saxon invaders pagans, meaning they did not believe in the Christian god. Like the Celts and early Romans, the Anglo-Saxons worshipped many gods. Their wooden temples and countryside shrines (holy places) were destroyed or forgotten long ago. But the names of four of their gods are remembered in days of the week:

Tuesday – the day of the god *Tiw*

Wednesday – *Woden's* day

Thursday – *Thunor's* day

Friday – *Frig's* day

Even the name of Easter, the Christians' most important festival (special time), comes from a pagan goddess, *Eostre*.

## Wessex fights back

Alfred was succeeded (followed as king) by very able sons and grandsons:

Edward the Elder	Reigned 899 to 924 (usually written 899–924)
Athelstan	924–39 (no need to repeat the first 9)
Edmund	939–46
Eadred	946–55

These kings of Wessex defeated the Vikings in many battles and reconquered the whole of England.

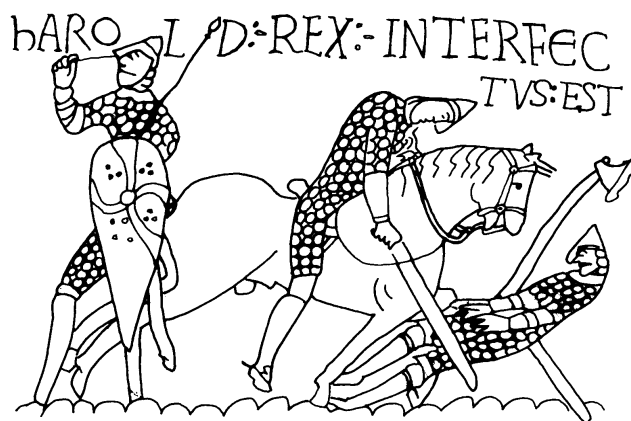
By the time of King Eadred and his son Edgar (957–75), the kings of Wessex ruled over all England. From this time onwards England was a single kingdom.

## The return of the Danes

The Viking attacks had not finished. During the reign of Edgar's son Aethelred (978–1016) the Danes raided England time and again. The king paid them money to go away. This money was known as danegeld (Dane + *geld*, meaning money). When they knew about this, the Danes returned to get more money!

Aethelred was followed by the only Danish king of all England, Cnut (1016-35). (There is more about Cnut on pages 59 and 60.)

After Cnut came Anglo-Saxon kings. But they did not last long. The last, King Harold, was killed by Norman invaders at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, and the long line of Anglo-Saxon kings came to an end.



*The death of Harold at Hastings, from the Bayeux Tapestry*

What can you remember?

Fill in the gaps in these sentences with the right words from the following list:

Edgar      Danelaw      Aethelred      Lindisfarne      loot

- 1 The first Vikings came to England in search of \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 2 King \_\_\_\_\_ paid the Danes to leave England.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ became King of England in 957.
- 4 The \_\_\_\_\_ was to the east of Watling Street.
- 5 The Vikings attacked \_\_\_\_\_ monastery in 793.

Something to do

- 1 Colour and label the picture on page 48.
- 2 Explain why the Danes wanted to settle in England  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 On a separate piece of paper draw a picture of the Viking attack on Lindisfarne.
- 4 Explain how Wessex was able to conquer the kingdoms of Mercia and Northumbria:

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