

Thursday 28th January

PART ONE

Prediction

What do you think a text titled "Scots and Anglo-Saxons" will be about?

You don't need to write this answer down.

Read the first two paragraphs.

If you are unsure of the meaning of any words, you can clarify them on the internet.

Think about these questions as you are reading the text.

- ① By what year had the last of the Romans left Britain?
- ② What groups of people were attacking Britain at this time?
- ③ Why were the British people not prepared for fighting?
- ④ What did the Scots do with the land in Scotland?
- ⑤ How did the historian Gildas describe the Scots? Do you think this is fair?

Scots and Anglo-Saxon Invaders

By around 410AD, the last of the Romans had left Britain to go and defend their own country as invaders, who wanted to take over their land, were attacking them. This meant Britain was left to look after



itself for the first time in about 400 years, even though it was still under constant attack from the Picts, Scots and Saxons. Emperor Honorius told the people to defend themselves, but after being protected by Roman soldiers for so long, they were not prepared for fighting!

The Scotti, who came from Ireland, were descendants of the Picts, who had earlier invaded Ireland around 200AD. Historians believe that these Irish Scots invaded and took land in Scotland in the 4th and 5th centuries. The Scots divided the land in Scotland into four separate kingdoms, which were named Dal Riata, Pictland, Strathclyde and Bernicia. The Picts and the Scots were always trying to get into England and take more land for themselves and it was hard for the people in England to fight them off without help from the Romans. The Picts and

the Scots were described as “foul” and with a “lust for blood” by an historian from the time, called Gildas. They are said to have jumped over Hadrian’s Wall, killing everyone in their way.

Summary

Summarise what you have just read. *You don’t need to write this answer down.*

PART TWO

Read the remaining four paragraphs (from The British King to the Norman era).

If you are unsure of the meaning of any words, you can clarify them on the internet.

Think about these questions as you are reading the text.

⑥ Why did King Vortigern find it difficult to hold back the Scots and Picts?

⑦ Who did King Vortigern ask for help? Where did these men come from?

⑧ What happened at the Battle of Hastings?

The British King Vortigern was left in charge after the Roman armies left, but he found it difficult to hold back the Picts and Scots. Vortigern was worried that these powerful and excellent fighters would take over Britain. The Vortigern had an idea how he could keep the Picts and Scots out of Britain. He asked two brothers called Hengest and Horsa from Jutland to come and fight for him and keep Britain safe from the Picts and Scots.

Hengist and Horsa were glad to help and they fought well to keep the Picts and Scots out. However, the men liked what they found in England and decided that they wanted to stay and take land for themselves. They knew that the people were not strong fighters so they would be easy to control. Hengest and Horsa brought more warriors to England and over time the invaders began to settle and the Brits were pushed farther and farther out!

The brothers and their warriors weren't the only ones who had their sights set on taking over land in Britain. Other tribes had also been invading for some time, and without Roman protection, the Brits could not keep them out. We know these



invaders as the Anglo-Saxons because the two biggest invading tribes were called the Angles and the Saxons. Other invaders were the Jutes, Franks and Frisians. They came from the modern places of Germany, Holland and Denmark.

The Anglo-Saxons went on to rule in Britain until the 11th century AD. It was William the Conqueror from Normandy's victory over King Harold at the Battle of Hasting in 1066 that marked the end to Anglo-Saxon rule and the beginning of the Norman era.



Summary

Summarise what you have just read. *You don't need to write this answer down.*

WRITTEN TASK: COMPREHENSION

Answer the questions (① to ⑧) in full sentences.

CHALLENGE: Do you think it was a mistake to ask Hengest and Horsa for help? Explain your answer.

Remember to photograph your work and send it to your class teacher using the portfolio on Class DOJO.