

London is a Celtic name, but many towns that Romans built along their roads — Lancaster, Winchester, Chichester, etc. have the Latin component “castra”— a camp, a fortified town.

London was the centre of Roman Rule in Britain, it was walled, the Thames was bridged; and straight paved roads (Roman Roads,— that are as straight as a die) connected London with garrison towns.

Under the Emperor Hadrian in 120 AD a great wall was built across Britain between the Tyne and the Solway to protect the Romans against the attacks of Scots and Picts.

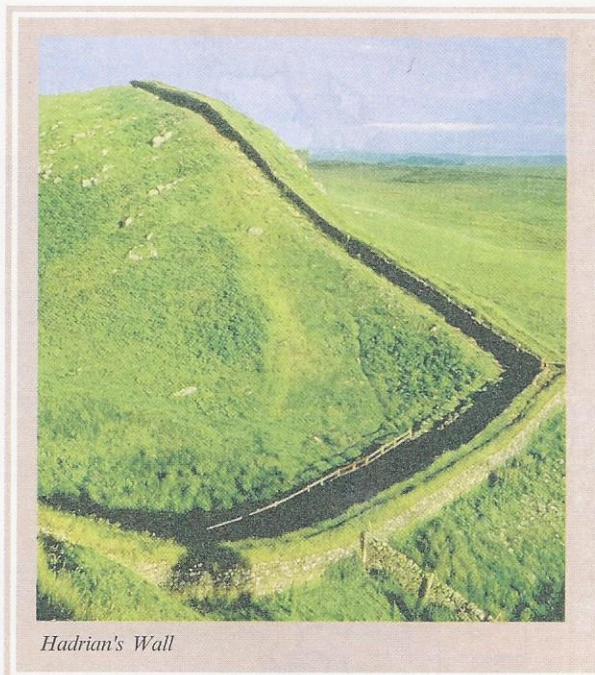
Hadrian’s wall was a vast engineering project and is a material monument of the Roman times alongside with roads, frescoes and mosaics on the villas and baths (in the city of Bath).

The Romans also brought Christianity to Britain and the British Church became a strong institution.

The native language absorbed many Latin words at that time.

By the fifth century the Roman Empire was beginning to disintegrate and the Roman legions in Britain had to return back to Rome to defend it from the attacks of the new waves of barbaric invaders. Britain was left to defend and rule itself.

According to the writing of Venerable Bede, an English monk, barbaric teutonic tribes of **Angles, Saxons and Jutes** were making raids against the British throughout the fifth and sixth centuries. The British Celts tried to check the Germanic tribes, and that was the period of the half-legendary King Arthur and his knights of the Round Table who defended Christianity against the heathen Anglo-Saxons.



Hadrian's Wall

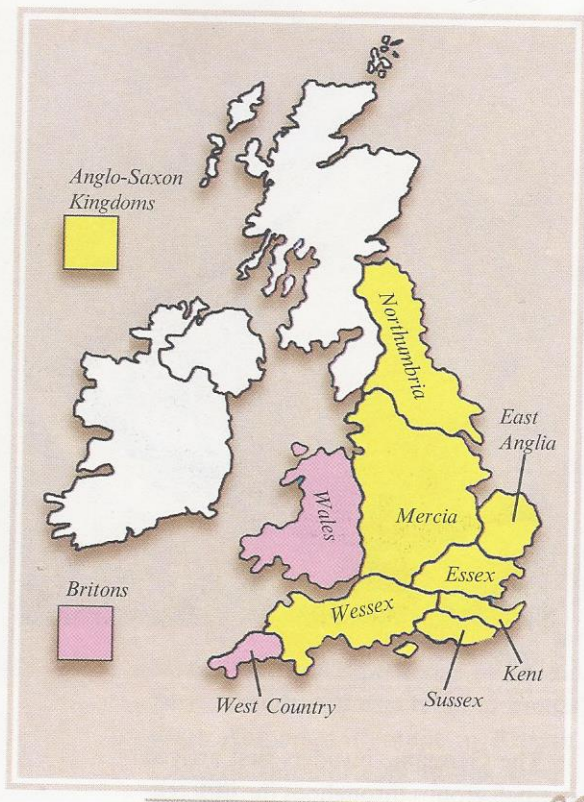
The Germanic invaders first arrived in small groups throughout the **fifth** century but managed to settle and oust the British population to the mountainous parts of the Isle of Great Britain.

The Anglo-Saxons controlled the central part of Britain which was described as England while the romanized Celts fled West taking with them their culture, language and Christianity.

The Anglo-Saxon England was a network of small kingdoms.

The seventh century saw the establishment of seven kingdoms: **Essex (East Saxons), Sussex (South Saxons), Wessex (West Saxons), East Anglia (East Angles), Kent, Mersia and Northumbria**, and the largest three of them — **Northumbria, Mercia and Wessex** — dominated the country at different times.

The Anglo-Saxon kings were elected by the members of the Council of Chieftains (the Witan) (see Chart I, p. 9) and



they ruled with the advice of the councilors, the great men of the kingdom. In time it became the custom to elect a member of the royal family, and the power of the king grew parallel to the size and the strength of his kingdom. In return for the support of his subjects,— who gave him free labour and military service, paid taxes and duties — the King gave them his protection and granted lands.

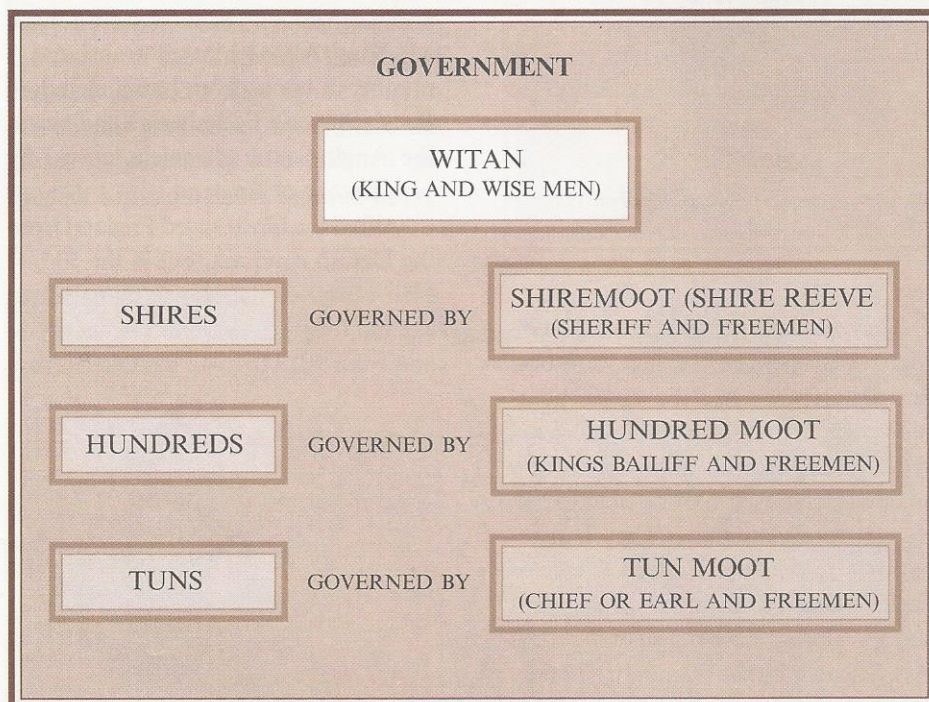
By the end of the eighth century the British Isles were subjected to one more invasion by non-Christian people from **Scandinavia**.

...But the Romans left
 And the Danes blew in...
 That's where your history book
 begins...

R. Kipling



ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND



Note how Anglo-Saxon England was divided into Seven Kingdoms, known as the Heptarchy. The chart shows how each Kingdom was split up, and how each part had its own moot, or council, to look after its affairs. The Witan was the council for the country.

Chart 1