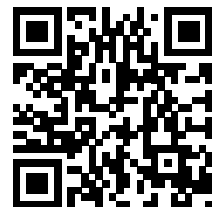


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# England Before the Normans



During the late 8th century, \_\_\_\_\_ was divided into several Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. These were primarily \_\_\_\_\_, Mercia, Northumbria, and East Anglia. The people in these kingdoms spoke Old \_\_\_\_\_ and followed their own traditions and laws. Life in Anglo-Saxon England was about farming, with the \_\_\_\_\_ being the center of community life. The Anglo-Saxons were skilled in \_\_\_\_\_, creating beautiful jewelry and robust tools. However, this peaceful existence was disrupted by the arrival of the \_\_\_\_\_. These warriors from Scandinavia began raiding England in 793 AD, with a notorious attack on the \_\_\_\_\_ at Lindisfarne. The Vikings were not only fierce warriors but also traders and explorers. Their \_\_\_\_\_, known for their speed and agility, enabled them to travel great distances and establish \_\_\_\_\_, even in England. Over time, the Vikings started to settle in the \_\_\_\_\_ they had raided. This led to significant changes in the local culture, language, and \_\_\_\_\_. One of the most famous Viking leaders to rule in England was \_\_\_\_\_ Cnut, who became king of England, Denmark, and Norway. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Viking culture with Anglo-Saxon customs led to a rich melding of \_\_\_\_\_ and languages, which would eventually form the basis of modern English society. The \_\_\_\_\_ between the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings ended with the Norman Conquest of England in 1066. This \_\_\_\_\_, however, laid the groundwork for the England we know today, with its unique blend of \_\_\_\_\_ and histories.

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