

### Facts about the Anglo-Saxons

After the Romans left England in 410 AD, the Anglo-Saxons arrived. They had sailed across the North Sea and were made up of three tribes: the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes.

Initially, there were a number of Anglo-Saxon kings who each ruled lots of smaller kingdoms across England. After 400 years, Egbert became the first Anglo-Saxon king of England. The Anglo-Saxon kings ruled England for around 300 years, until 1066.

During the reign of King Alfred the Great, the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles were written. These were sent to monasteries and detail the history of this era. In the monasteries, scribes updated these manuscripts. We know about what happened in this time period because of the chronicles.

At one time, the Anglo-Saxons worshipped a number of Gods, in the same way the Greeks, Romans and Egyptians did. They believed that these Gods were capable of controlling many aspects of their lives. However, around the seventh century, many Anglo-Saxons converted to Christianity.

The Anglo-Saxons lived in small villages. These villages were near to landmarks such as forests and rivers, providing important resources such as animals to hunt and water to drink. Their houses were usually one-roomed and made of wood with thatched roofs. The important people in the village would have the largest house, known as the hall, and live there with their soldiers and advisors.

## English Resources B

Character	Appearance	Words	Actions	What can we infer about them?
Magnus				
Hakon				

### Information about Housecarls

A housecarl was a full-time, well-trained and paid Anglo-Saxon soldier who was a bodyguard to an important person, such as a king or earl, and their family.

They wore a chain mail coat known as a byrnie, with short sleeves to enable them to move more freely in battle, and a pointed helmet. Their main weapons were an axe and a double-edged sword.

Housecarls were known for their loyalty to their employers.

In return for their loyalty they were given treasure as gifts and were looked after in their employer's household or court.

Housecarls lived by a code and followed laws subject to their position.

These laws governed their behaviour, military duties that they needed to carry out and roles such as policing and tax collection.

## English Resource D

Think about the qualities and skills needed to be a good housecarl.

Make notes beneath the headings below.

Use a thesaurus to improve your choice of synonyms.

**Qualities Needed**

**Required Skills**

**What makes a successful housecarl?**

**Experience**

You are going to write a speech in role as a housecarl, persuading Harold to employ you as a new member of his household. Use the writing frame below to help you to do this.

**My Good Lord. I would like to introduce myself**

**I am here today to ask...**

**I think that I would make a perfect housecarl in your employ as I have a variety of skills which include...**

**My personal qualities, which are ideal to this role, are...**

**I have a wealth of experience such as...**

**To conclude....**