

Read the text about the roots of English. Then complete the timeline below.
Preberi besedilo o izvoru angleškega jezika. Nato dopolni spodnjo časovno premico.

THE ROOTS OF ENGLISH

How did English begin? Who were the first people to speak it, and where did they come from?

The story begins around the year 2,500 B.C. That's when a large group of people in central Europe, the Indo-European tribes, started to travel. Some went to the east and others to the west. Experts believe that all modern European languages started from this Indo-European movement.

The travellers who settled in Britain were the Celts, and their language was the first important step in the development of English. Even today the Celtic influence still exists in languages like Gaelic, Welsh and Cornish.

For nearly 2,000 years the Celts were the only people in Britain, but in 55 B.C. all that changed. That's when the Romans invaded. They stayed for nearly 500 years, but hardly changed the language of the Celts at all.

But English *did* begin to change after the Roman Empire collapsed in 476 A.D. That's when the second invasion took place. This time the invaders came

defeated them in 878. Even so, many Norse words entered English and to this day the accent and dialects of north-eastern England sound a lot like Norwegian or Swedish.

The last major influence on English arrived in 1066. This time the invading army, led by William the Conqueror, was French. Suddenly Britain was a tri-lingual country. French was the language of the court and of culture, Latin was the language of the

from Northern Europe (modern Germany, Holland and Denmark), and there were three main groups – the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes. They settled in different parts of Britain and, unlike the Romans, slowly began to mix their own language with Celtic words. The result, in the 6th and 7th centuries, was an Anglo-Saxon language which is now called "Old English".

The next chapter in the story of English began in 597. In that year St Augustine arrived in Britain and began to spread Christianity. Slowly, as the new religion became popular, Latin was accepted in Britain, so that by the middle of the 8th century, Old English consisted of Celtic, Anglo-Saxon and Latin words.

There were two more important events in the development of English. The first came from Scandinavia and the second from France. In the late 8th century, Vikings began to attack the north and east coasts of Britain. At one time Viking armies nearly controlled the whole country, but King Alfred

church and of education, and Anglo-Saxon "Old English" was the language of the common people.

What happened next was two hundred years when these three different languages slowly came together. By the 14th century Anglo-Saxon "Old English" had become "Middle English", a language which could be spoken by everyone. English, as we know it today, had begun.

(Adapted from *Club*)

Glossary

Indo-European tribes = *indoevropska plemena*

movement = *premik, preseljevanje*

settle = *naseliti se, nastaniti se*

Celts = *Kelti*

the first important step in the development of English = *prvi pomemben korak v razvoju angleščine*

influence = *vpiliv*

exist = *obstajati, biti navzoč*

Gaelic = *gelsčina, gelski jezik*

Welsh = *valižanski jezik (tj. jezik Walesa)*

Cornish = *kornijsčina, kornijski jezik (tj. jezik Cornwalla)*

nearly = *skoraj*

Romans = *Rimljani*

invade = *napasti, vdreti v/na, vpasti, okupirati*

hardly = *skoraj(da) ne; komaj(da)*

they hardly changed the language ... at all = *jezika skoraj niso spreminjali*

the Roman Empire = *rimski imperij, rimsko cesarstvo*

collapse = *propasti*

invasion = *napad, vpad, vdor*

took place → take place = *zgoditi se*

invaders = *napadalci, osvajalci, zavojevalci*

the Angles = *Angli (nekdanje germansko ljudstvo/pleme)*

the Saxons = *Sasi (nekdanje germansko ljudstvo/pleme)*

the Jutes = *Juti (nekdanje germansko ljudstvo/pleme)*

unlike the Romans = *drugače kot Rimljani, v nasprotju z Rimljani*

an Anglo-Saxon language = *anglosaški jezik, anglosaščina*

Old English = *stara angleščina, staroangleški jezik*

chapter = *poglavje*

St Augustine = *Sveti Avgustin*

spread = *siriti, razširjati*

Christianity = *krščanstvo, krščanska vera*

consist of = *biti (sestavljen) iz; vsebovati*

event = *dogodek*

in the late 8th century = *proti koncu 8. stoletja; v poznem 8. stoletju*

attack = *napadati, napasti, naskočiti*

defeat = *poraziti, premagati*

Norse words = *nordijske/vikinške besede*

accent = *naglas*

dialect = *dialekt, narečje*

major = *bistven, pomemben, velik*

William the Conqueror = *Viljem I. Osvajalec (1066-87)*

tri-lingual = *trijezičen*

court = *dvor*

common people = *navadni/povprečni ljudje*

Middle English = *srednja angleščina, srednjeangleški jezik (1150-1470)*