

THE MIDDLE AGES

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CLASSE 4 A

a. S. 2010 - 2011

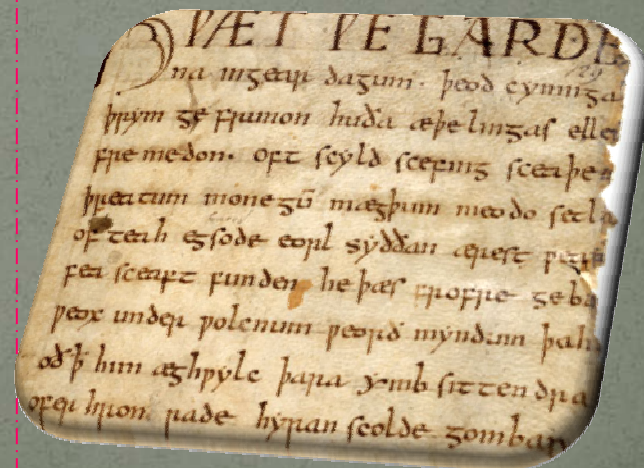
THE ANGLO- SAXONS

A group of tribes from **the German Regions of Angeln and Saxony**

Entered Great Britain and **ruled until 1066** ⇒ the Norman invasion

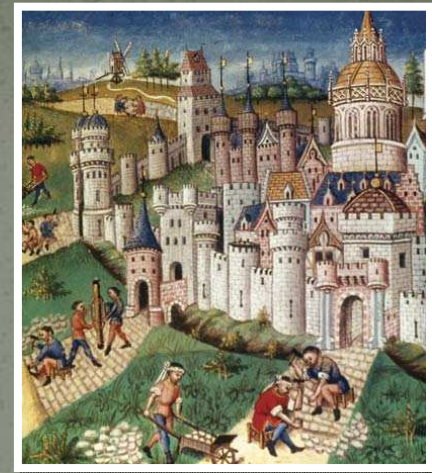
The Anglo-Saxons were **descendants of four Germanic tribes:**

- The **Angles** from Angeln
- The **Saxons** from Saxony
- The **Jutes** from Jutland
- The **Frisians** from Netherlands



CONTENTS

- Feudalism
- Ballads
- Religion
- Chivalry code
- The position of the woman
- Goeffrey Chaucher



FEUDALISM

William I ⇒ **the Conqueror**
overcame England at Hastings
introduced the **feudal system**.



divided his lands among vassals
in exchange for services.

The Pope was at the top of the
social ladder



religion

the most important code was



Pope

King

Nobles

Serfs

BALLADS

Most popular form of literature

FEATURES

layout of a poem

mostly anonymous

handed over orally

recorded on paper during Romanticism

THEMES

The Supernatural

The Battles on the border between England and Scotland

Tragic Love Stories



RELIGION

the most important code of
the Middle Ages



everyone was interested in
salvation



**Earthly life was considered
less significant than spiritual
life**



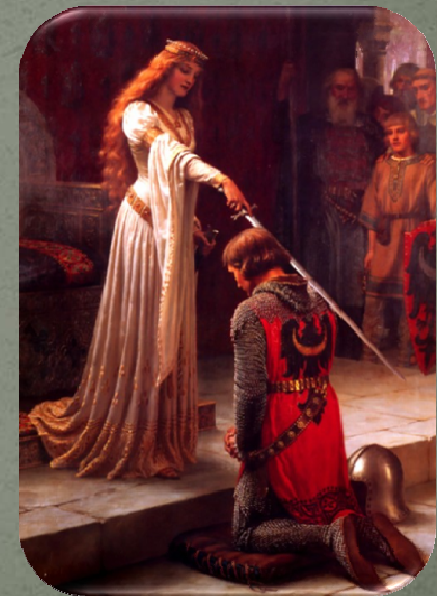
People lived mainly to reach
salvation after death.



CHIVALRY CODE

The knight had:

- To fear God and maintain His Church
- To serve the liege lord in valour and faith
- To protect the weak and defenseless
- To help widows and orphans
- To refrain from the wanton giving of offence
- To live by honour and glory
- To despise pecuniary reward
- To fight for everybody's welfare
- To obey authority
- To guard the honour of fellow knights
- To eschew unfairness, meanness and deceit



WOMEN

considered inferior members of society



The Medieval world was dominated by men

- women were not respected members
- Christian institutions did not fight to improve their moral and material position
- The Christian doctrine considered women **responsible for the original sin and the Fall of Man**
- women were often considered **tempters**



- the personification of the devil ⇒ tempted men



G. CHAUCER

THE POETS' POET



**First to use the English Language
for literary purposes**

English

- poet
- philosopher
- bureaucrat
- courtier
- diplomat

Best remembered for his
unfinished frame narrative

The Canterbury Tales



THE CANTERBURY TALES

- a collection of verse tales, short stories and sketches of life
- told in verse
- inspired by Boccaccio's Decameron
- Chaucer's adaptation of the Italian model



**tales told by a group of pilgrims
travelling to Canterbury**

- pilgrims cover the middle strata of society,
- nobles and peasants are both excluded
- Ironic description of late 14th century English middle-class

