King Alfred (849AD-899AD) was called Alfred “The Great” because he defeated the Danes or the Vikings.

The Anglo–Saxon’s Chronicle is the first form of Anglo - saxon history because it records the main events that happened in the land of the Anglo - saxons. We refer to the Anglo- saxon because that name comes from “England”. We take information from documents, events, thinkers’ idea that are generally recorded or ended over from generation to generation.

The Anglo - saxon brought with them their nordic religion, a strong organization and a code of valued based on a high sense of honour and fidelity to their chiefs. They also brought with them their farming and fishing matters. Their social structure had the family at its centre, which branched out to the clan and the tribe. Their society was rooled by a chief or a king (who was generally the military leader). Then came the earls (counts, duckes, marquises, …) who were nobles by birth and the thegns, who were the personal companions of the king. All the other people were “free men”. They were compelled to help to maintain roads, bridges and forts and provide military service when necessary.

People lived in country villages where the farmland, woods, pastures and meadows wew owned communally.

First of all the Anglosaxons imposed their language. Later known as old english, which became through several modifications the English spoken today.

The celtic languages of the Native Britons survived only in Wales, Irland and the North-West of Scotland.

Influence of Christianity

Christianity which began to spread throughout pagan Anglo-saxon Britain from the end of the 6th century, proved a driving force in uniting the kingdom and in opening the country to the influence of Europe.

When the Danish king Cnut (1016-1035) became Christian he took pains to reconcile the Anglo - saxon and the Danish. The Church was also very influential on aspects of culture because it introduces the writing of documents why pagan Anglo-saxon culture was mainly based on oral tradition. The Anglo - saxons culture was ended out from generation to generation.

Oral culture is based on people’s ability to remember.

The Beowulf

The word “Beowulf” is made up of the words “Beo” and “wolf”, the English for ‘lupo’. If Beowulf is one of the most important examples of Anglosaxon culture we should first ask ourself/ wonder why do we know something of Anglosaxon culture. Where does Beowulf come from? Beowulf is an epic poem; it’s a form of epic poetry. Epic poem is a poem celebrating the gestures and the deeds of Anglosaxon civilization.

We don’t know the origins of Beowulf. We don’t know concrete information about the origin of the epic poem.

The scolars of the time even don’t know when the poem was written exactly.

Epic poetry is a narrative form of poetry. It tells about heroes, deeds, and similar ones.