The Anglo-Saxons

Although Germanic bands of warriors tried to attack England while this was still occupied by the Romans, it was only after 410 AD that they managed to invade it. They came in separate groups, in row boats of 30-40 people, overpowering the local defenceless population. They were even invited sometimes by local leaders who needed mercenary help for the attacks coming from the Picts and Scots. It is said that the Saxon warriors liked England so much that they did not want to leave and by 450AD they even brought their families to settle here. The main tribes which came were the ……, Angles and ……... Although the first were the most numerous group, it would be the Angles who gave their name to England (Angleland). Apparently, their territories in northern Europe (nowadays' Germany and Holland) were often ……, the land was less fertile and the climate harsher.

After centuries of comfortable Roman life, the once fierce Celts had turned into a soft, peace-loving people. Still, one man is said to have tried to stop the Anglo-Saxons from occupying Britain. His name was …… Ambrosius and he is believed to have been a Roman general who organised a local army which met and defeated the invaders at Baden Hill in 500AD. This slowed down the Saxon invasion, but unfortunately did not stop it. However, this local hero remained in history as King …… and the stories about him are now the stuff of legend.

The Vikings

Also known under the name of *Danes*, *pirates* or even *devils*, the Vikings were the next invaders of Britain and they started to come at the end of the ……. century. It was a time of great expansion for these Northern people from nowadays' Denmark, Sweden and ……. Being expert **sailors** and daring **explorers**, their ships reached areas as remotely located as America or Russia and the Mediterranean Sea or even the Black Sea. Their **long ……..** were famous for their technical characteristics, being extremely stable on high seas and easy to manoeuvre. Their sight with a dragon head carved at the prow was feared as everybody knew about the Vikings' fame.

Only the brave opposition of King ……. the Great of Wessex in 871 prevented them from occupying all Britain. In exchange for a tax called *Danegeld*, the English got to keep the western parts of England, Wessex included, while the Danes promised to embrace …….. However, even in the invaded areas they brought relatively few changes in people's life as they were very similar to the Anglo-Saxons, being related to them linguistically and culturally.

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