

Beowulf.

Anglo-Saxon history and artifacts
History of the English Language
The Mead-hall
Anglo-Saxon Riddles

Sources:

The Sutton Hoo Ship Burial, The British Museum

“Waving His Wand at ‘Beowulf’” by Ethan Gilsdorf, New York Times

J.R.R. Tolkien Biography, The Tolkien Society

A Companion to Beowulf by Ruth Johnston Stayer



History of the English Language

“A Brief History of English, with Chronology” by Suzanne Kemmer (Rice University)

- Proto-English Period (before 600 AD)

- _____ English Period (ca. 600-1100)

- Example: *Beowulf*
- Norman Conquest 1066



Tolkien specialized in Old English and Middle English.

- _____ English Period (ca. 1100-1500)

- Example: *Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer

- _____ English Period (ca. 1500-present)

- Early Modern English 1500-1650
 - Examples: King James Bible and Shakespeare

1 Ðan she ðette Old Anzlish Tunzan eode sprecan

2 Than she gan to-spaken ðis Middle Englysshe Tongue

3 Then she wente to spake this Early Mloderen Englysh Tongue

4 Then she went to speak this Late Modern English Tongue

Modern Day Europe



Iceland

Sweden

Norway

Finland

Oslo

Stockholm

Helsinki

St Petersburg

Gothenburg

Baltic Sea

Tallinn

Estonia

Latvia

North Sea

United Kingdom

Denmark

Lithuania

Moscow

Ireland

London

Hamburg

Netherlands

Vilnius

Minsk

Belarus

Germany

Poland

Belgium

Berlin

Prague

Krakow

Ukraine

Kiev

Kharkiv

France

Paris

Czech Rep

Slovakia

Dnipropetrovs'k

Bay of Biscay

Munich

Bratislava

Austria

Hungary

Moldova

Odesa

Vaduz

Milan

Zagreb

Croatia

Serbia

Romania

Bucharest

Black Sea

Marseille

Italy

Rome

Bulgaria

Istanbul

Ankara

Portugal

Spain

Lisbon

Madrid

Barcelona

Greece

Izmir

Turkey

Seville

Moscow

Anglo-Saxons

- Fall of Roman Empire (ca. AD 410) left a

_____ of power

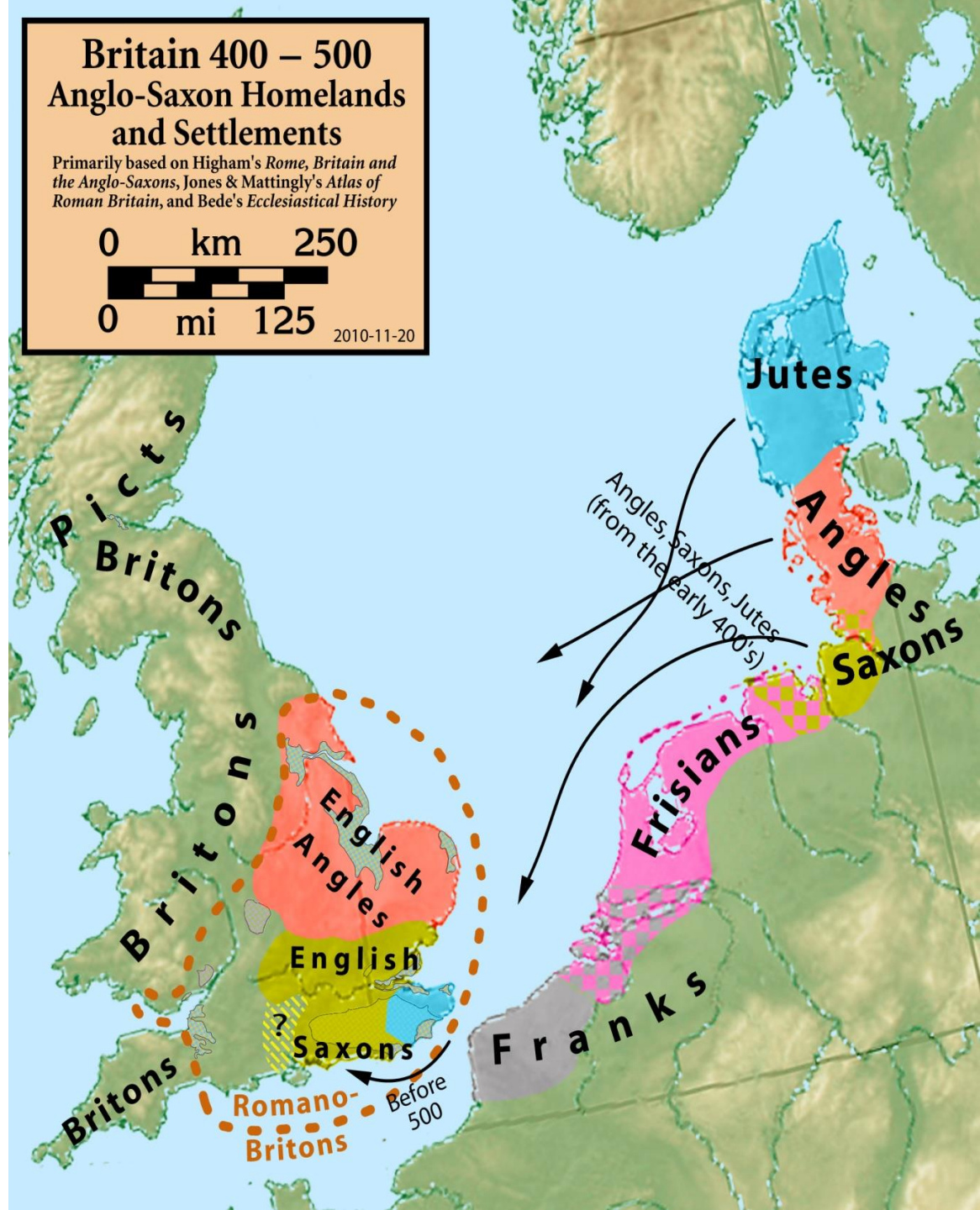
- Settlers from _____ regions invaded England
- Southern Denmark
- Northern Germany

- Anglo-Saxon period lasted for _____ years (410-1066)

Britain 400 – 500
Anglo-Saxon Homelands and Settlements
Primarily based on Higham's *Rome, Britain and the Anglo-Saxons*, Jones & Mattingly's *Atlas of Roman Britain*, and Bede's *Ecclesiastical History*

0 km 250
0 mi 125

2010-11-20



J.R.R. Tolkien was a professor of Anglo-Saxon at Oxford University.

Beowulf's World

• *Beowulf* is _____
set in Anglo-Saxon
England.

• *Beowulf* is set in _____
_____ &
_____.



Why is *Beowulf* important?

- *Beowulf* is the _____ known written work in English.
- *Beowulf* was written in _____ (_____ - _____).



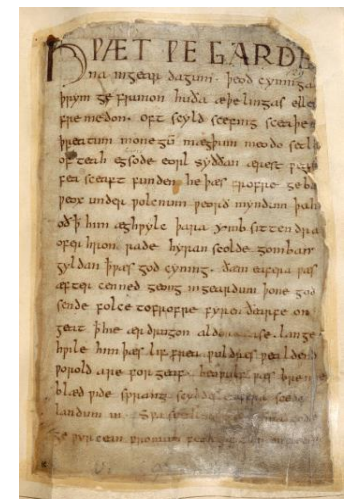
Many LOTR names are from Old English:

Samwise – stupid

Theoden – prince

Eomer – horse-famous

Eowyn – horse-joy



Anglo-Saxon Poetry

- _____ tradition was meant for mead-hall entertainment.
- _____ (poets) and _____ (harpists) sang or recited poems. They were the historians of the time.
- The poetic structure was based on _____ and _____, not rhyme and meter.

Heorot – The King's Mead-Hall

- The mead-hall is the great room of the _____.
- It is the _____ place in the kingdom.



Anglo Saxon Riddles

- The Anglo-Saxons loved _____.
- They told each other riddles and listened to poems at _____.



Bilbo and Gollum's riddle game in *The Hobbit*.

Anglo-Saxon Riddle #1

A wonderful warrior exists on earth.
Two dumb creatures make him grow bright between them.
Enemies use him against one another.
His strength is fierce but a woman can tame him.
He will meekly serve both men and women
If they know the trick of looking after him
And feeding him properly.
He makes people happy.
He makes their lives better.
But if they let him grow proud
This ungrateful friend soon turns against them.