

PLURILINGUAL WORKSHEET

Roots of English

1 Read the text and answer questions 1–4 below.

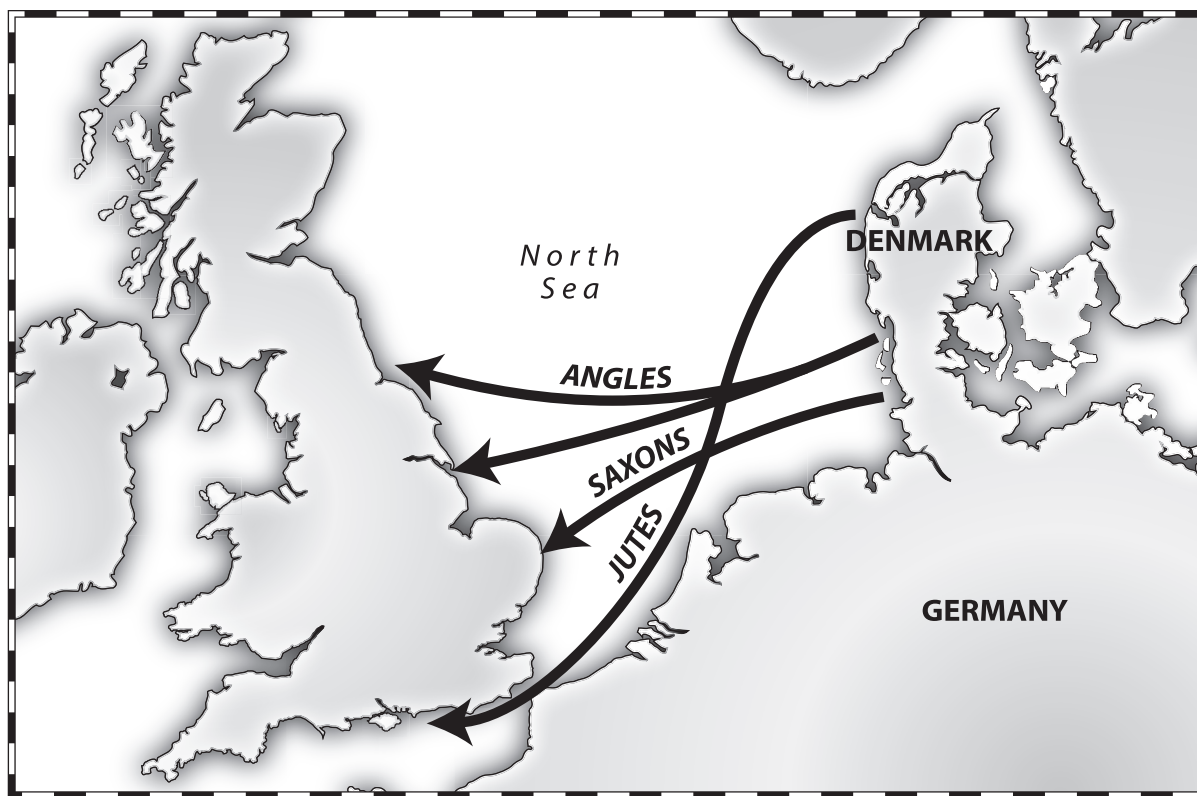
WHY DO MANY SIMPLE WORDS IN ENGLISH SOUND LIKE GERMAN?

The Romans invaded Britain in 43 AD. The Romans called the people they met on this island, 'Britons'. The Ancient Britons spoke a Celtic language, but some Britons also learned to speak Latin with the Romans. Not many words survived in England from this Celtic

language, although some people still speak Celtic languages in Scotland, Ireland and Wales today.

The Romans left Britain in the year 410 AD. After the Romans left, people from different tribes called the Angles, Saxons and Jutes sailed across the North Sea

from Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark. These people settled in Britain and historians call them the Anglo-Saxons. They spoke a common language, which came from early German languages and is often called Anglo-Saxon. They called their language 'Englisc'.



- 1 Who spoke Celtic?

- 2 What language did the Romans speak?

- 3 Who invaded Britain after the Romans left?

- 4 What did the Anglo-Saxons call their language?

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2a Here are some words that came from the Angles and Saxons and survived into modern English. Work in pairs. Put the words into the table.

apple arm bed bread cat cold cook cow daughter drink finger fire fish foot goose
grass father green grey hair hat house knee land midday moon morning mother
mouth night nose rain red sheep shoe snow son star sunny warm water wind wood

Farming, land and animals	Weather, sky and time of day	Colours	Family members	Parts of the body and clothes	Life in the home, food and furniture

2b How similar are these words in German?

3a Read the text and answer the question: How did the Normans change the English language?

People from Normandy in northern France, the Normans, invaded England in 1066. The Normans defeated the Anglo-Saxons at the Battle of Hastings and became the rulers of England. The new Norman rulers spoke French in their castles and had French cooks and artists, so new words from French entered the English language. French words connected with cooking, art and government entered the English language.

3b Work in pairs. Match the French word with the English word.

French

beauté
gouvernement
porc
bœuf
pouvoir
juge

English

beef
power
beauty
pork
government
judge