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The oldest surviving text of Old English literature is usually considered to be "Cædmon's Hymn", composed between 658 and 680. Northumbrian culture and language dominated England in the 7th and 8th Centuries, until the coming of the Vikings, after which only Wessex, under Alfred the Great, remained as an independent kingdom.

The History of English - Old English (c. 500 - c.1100)

Old English language, also called Anglo-Saxon, language spoken and written in England before 1100; it is the ancestor of Middle English and Modern English. Scholars place Old English in the Anglo-Frisian group of West Germanic languages .

Old English language | History, Characteristics, Examples ...

The history of Old English can be subdivided into: Prehistoric Old English (c. 450 to 650); for this period, Old English is mostly a reconstructed language as no literary witnesses survive (with the exception of limited epigraphic evidence). This language, or closely related group of dialects, spoken by the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes, and pre-dating documented Old English or Anglo-Saxon, has also been called Primitive Old English.

Old English - Wikipedia

Old English is a West Germanic language that was spoken and written by the Anglo-Saxons between the 5th and 11th centuries in the southern part of the Britain island. The language had several influences, including Latin, Norse, and Celt. There are several letters used in Old English that are not used anymore in modern English.

Old English - History of the English Language

English is a West Germanic language that originated from Anglo-Frisian dialects brought to Britain in the mid 5th to 7th centuries AD by Anglo-Saxon migrants from what is now northwest Germany, southern Denmark and the Netherlands. The Anglo-Saxons settled in the British Isles from the mid-5th century and came to dominate the bulk of southern Great Britain. Their language, now called Old English, originated as a group of Anglo-Frisian dialects which were spoken, at least by the settlers, in Engl

History of English - Wikipedia

Earliest known Old English inscriptions: Old English: 1066: William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy, invades and conquers England: c1150: Earliest surviving manuscripts in Middle English: Middle English: 1348: English replaces Latin as the language of instruction in most schools: 1362: English replaces French as the language of law.

History of English | EnglishClub

By the 14th Century, noun genders had almost completely died out, and adjectives, which once had up to 11 different inflections, were reduced to just two (for singular and plural) and often in practice just one, as in modern English. The pronounced stress, which in Old English was usually on the lexical root of a word, generally shifted towards the beginning of words, which further encouraged the gradual loss of suffixes that had begun after the Viking invasions, and many vowels developed ...

The History of English - Middle English (c. 1100 - c. 1500)

Many exceptional outcomes occurred in particular environments, e.g. vowels were often lengthened in late Old English before /ld, nd, mb/; vowels changed in complex ways before /r/, throughout the history of English; vowels were diphthongized in Middle English before /h/; new diphthongs arose in Middle English by the combination of vowels with Old English w, g /w/ > /w/, and ġ /j/; etc. The ...

Phonological history of Old English - Wikipedia

The Prehistory of English The ultimate origins of English lie in Indo-European, a family of languages consisting of most of the languages of Europe as well as those of Iran, the Indian subcontinent, and other parts of Asia.

The History of the English Language - ThoughtCo

The British Isles became inhabited more than 800,000 years ago, as the discovery of stone tools and footprints at Happisburgh in Norfolk has revealed. The earliest evidence for early modern humans in North West Europe, a jawbone discovered in Devon at Kents Cavern in 1927, was re-dated in 2011 to between 41,000 and 44,000 years old.

History of England - Wikipedia

The English language, and indeed most European languages, traces its original roots back to a Neolithic (late Stone Age) people known as the Indo-Europeans or Proto-Indo-Europeans, who lived in Eastern Europe and Central Asia from some time after 5000 BC (different hypotheses suggest various different dates anywhere between the 7th and the 3rd millennium BC).

The History of English - Before English (Prehistory - c ...

Old English: 450-480: Earliest Old English inscriptions: 597: St. Augustine arrives in Britain (beginning of Christian conversion of the Anglo-Saxons)
c.600: Anglo-Saxon language covers most of modern-day England: c.660 "Cædmon's Hymn" composed in Old English: 731: The Venerable Bede writes "The Ecclesiastical History of the English ...

The History of English - Timeline

"Now the oldest English texts have a literary history for the twenty-first century. One of the chief virtues of A History of Old English Literature is the rich elaboration of contexts, extending from the manuscripts to the literary and intellectual world of Anglo-Saxon England, to the early modern criticism, and to the most recent critical reception."

A History of Old English Literature (Blackwell History of ...

A Brief History of the English Language The English language has undergone many changes over the centuries. There are two main reasons for language change or evolution: socio-historical reasons and linguistic reasons. Socio-historical reasons for change are external in influence, such as the effects of migration.

History of the English Language - From Old English to ...

The historic counties of England are areas that were established for administration by the Normans, in many cases based on earlier kingdoms and shires created by the Anglo-Saxons and others. They are alternatively known as ancient counties, traditional counties, former counties or simply as counties.

Historic counties of England - Wikipedia

Old English is the name given to the earliest recorded stage of the English language, up to approximately 1150AD (when the Middle English period is generally taken to have begun).

Old English—an overview | Oxford English Dictionary

History of Old Sarum Old Sarum is one of the most enthralling and historically important sites in southern England. Uniquely, it combines a royal castle and cathedral within an Iron Age fortification, and for 150 years was a major centre of both secular and ecclesiastical government.

History of Old Sarum | English Heritage

The Origins of English The English language is Germanic in origin, although over half of its words have derived from contact with the Latin and French languages and some from Scandinavian influence. English has spread across the globe and is now the first language of over 50 countries and the world's most commonly spoken second language.

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