**Test**

**The history of the English language**

**(stortened and reduced)**

 **in http://www.studyenglishtoday.net/english-language-history.html**

**Fill in the missing words:**

The history of the English language has traditionally been divided into three main periods: Old English (450-[1100 AD](http://www.studyenglishtoday.net/english-language-history.html)), …………………………….(1100-circa 1500 AD) and Modern English (since 1500). Over the centuries, the English language has been influenced by a number of other languages.

*Old English:* During the 5th Century AD three Germanic tribes (………………., ………………… and Judes) came to the British Isles from various parts of northwest Germany as well as Denmark. These tribes pushed out most of the original, ……………………-speaking inhabitants from England into Scotland, ……………………, and Cornwall.

Through the years, these Germanic tribes mixed their different Germanic dialects. This group of dialects forms Old English or Anglo-Saxon. The word "English" comes from the name of the ………………………………..

Before the Saxons the language spoken in what is now England was Latin and there were various Celtic languages which were spoken before the……………………… came to Britain. Britain was [part](http://www.studyenglishtoday.net/english-language-history.html) of the Roman Empire for over 400 years.

The influence of Celtic upon Old English was slight. In fact, very few Celtic words have lived on in the English language. But many of place and river names have Celtic origins: *Kent*, *York*, *Dover*, *Thames and* [*Avon*](http://www.studyenglishtoday.net/english-language-history.html).

The introduction of Christianity into Saxon England brought more ………………………… words into the English language.

Around 878 AD Danes and Norsemen, also called ………………………………….., invaded the country. English got many Norse words into the language. These Norsemen spoke a language (*Old Norse*) which was just as Germanic as Old English. Words derived from Norse include: *sky*, *egg*, *cake*, *skin*, *leg and* *window.*

*Middle English (1100-circa 1500 AD):* After ……………………………………………….., the Duke of Normandy, invaded and conquered England in 1066 AD and became king, he brought his nobles, who spoke ……………………………………., to be the new government. The Old French took over as the language of the court, administration, and culture. Meanwhile, the ……………….. language, as the language of the now lower class, was considered a vulgar tongue.

By about 1200, England and France had split. English changed a lot, because it was mostly being spoken instead of written for about 300 years. The use of Old English came back, but with many French words added. This language is called Middle English with words like *crown*, *castle*, *court*, *parliament and beauty.*
Because the English underclass cooked for the Norman upper class, the words for most domestic animals are …………………………. (*ox*, *cow*, *calf*, *sheep*, *swine*) while the words for the meats derived from them are ……………………………….(*beef*, *veal*, *mutton*, *pork*, *bacon*).

The most famous example of Middle English is Chaucer's [*"The Canterbury Tales"*](http://www.librarius.com/), a collection of stories about a group of thirty people who travel as pilgrims to Canterbury, England.

*Modern English (1500 to the present):* Modern English developed after the invention of the printing press. The Bible was printed. The books became cheaper and more people learned to read. Printing also brought standardization to English.

By the time of [Shakespeare's writings](http://www.shakespeare-online.com/index.html) (1592-1616), the language had become clearly recognizable as Modern English. There were three big developments in the world at the beginning of Modern English period: the Renaissance, the Industrial Revolution, and the British Colonialism.

It was during the [English Renaissance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_Renaissance) that most of the words from Greek and Latin entered English.

England began the Industrial Revolution (18th century) and this had also an effect on the development of the language. New words had to be invented because of the rapid changes in technology. New technical words were added to the vocabulary like for example *engine*, *electricity*, *telegraph*, *camera* etc).

Britain was an Empire between the 18th and 20th centuries. The English language continued to change as the British Empire moved across the world - to …………………….., Australia, New Zealand, India, Asia and Africa. They sent people to settle and live in their conquered places. As settlers interacted with natives, new words were added to the English vocabulary. For example, '*kangaroo*' and '*boomerang*' are native Australian Aborigine words, '*turban*' comes from India.
English continues to change and develop, with hundreds of new words arriving every year. But even with all the borrowings from many other languages the heart of the English language remains the Anglo-Saxon of Old English.