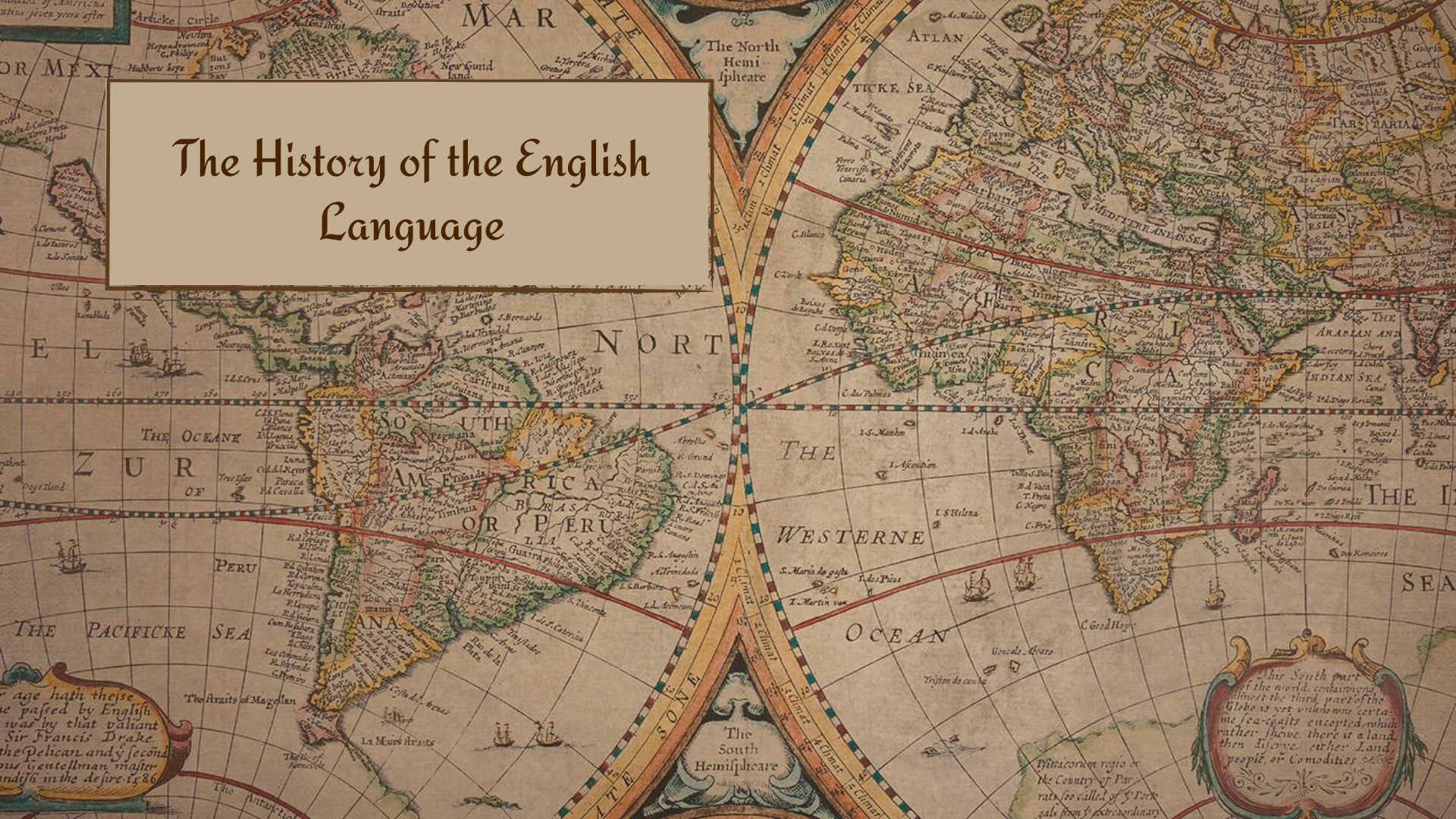


The History of the English Language



Age hath these
passed by English
was by that valiant
Sir Francis Drake
the Pelican and second
gentleman master
and his in the desire 1586

This South part
of the world contains
almost the third part of the
Globe is yet unknowne certain
sea-calls excepted which
rather have, there is a land
then discover, either Land
people or Comodities

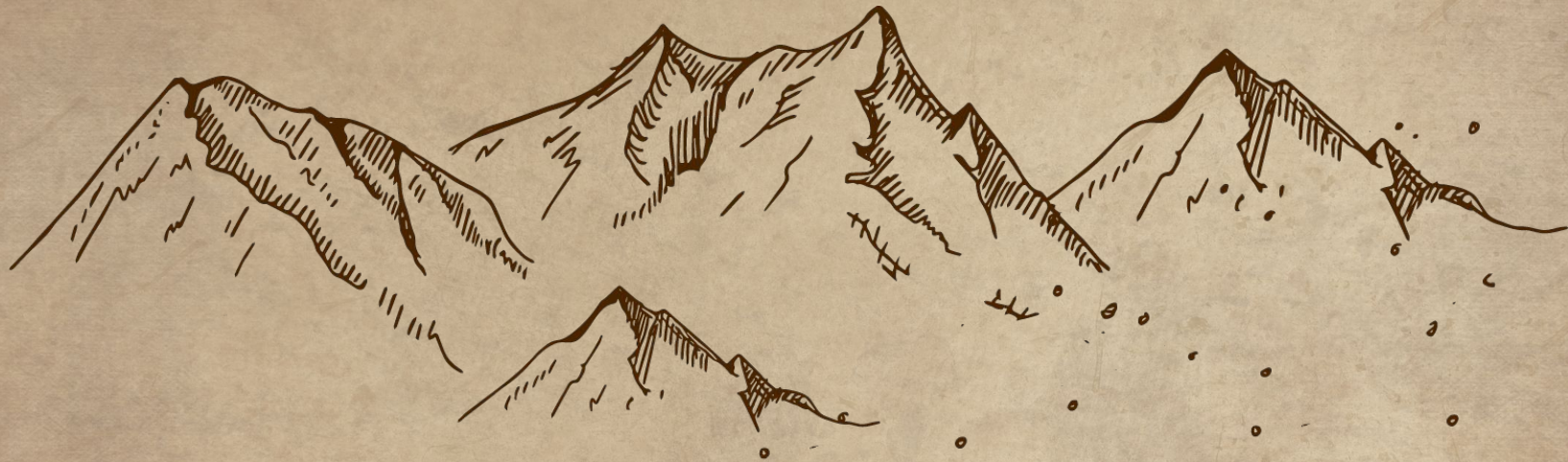
Mitacorum regio
the Country of Par
rats, so called of y^e Port
gals from y^e extraordinary

The
Beginnings....



- The history of the English language started when three Germanic tribes, the ANGLES, the SAXONS, and the JUTES, invaded Britain during the 5th century. They crossed the North Sea from what today is known as Denmark and Northern Germany. These tribes named their new territory *Engla Land*, which meant land of the Angles.
- At that time, the inhabitants of Britain spoke a Celtic language, but most were pushed west and north by these invading tribes into what is now Wales, Scotland, and Ireland.
- The invading tribes all spoke similar languages, which they developed into a common language they called *Englisc*, which is where our term English derives from.





450-1100

Old English

1500-1800

Early Modern
English

1100-1500

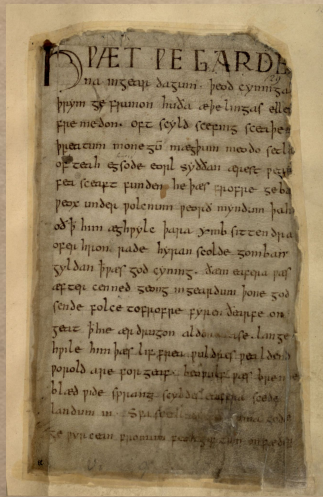
Middle English

1800-
present

























Late Modern
English

Old English- 450-1100 AD

The similar languages of the invading tribes became known as Old English.



the ANGLO-SAXON runic alphabet

 FEOW wealth	 UR uroch	 ÞORN thorn	 OS god, mouth	 RAD riding
 CEN torch	 GYFU gift	 PYNN joy	 HAEG hail-stone	 NYD need
 IS ice	 GER year, harvest	 EOH yew tree	 PEORÐ unknown	 EOLHX elk-sedge
 SIGEL sun	 TIR unknown	 BEORC birch-tree	 EH horse	 MANN man
 LAGU lake	 ING unknown	 DÆG day	 EDEL home	 AC oak-tree
 AESC ash-tree	 YR bow	 EAR grave	 CALC unknown	 GAR spear

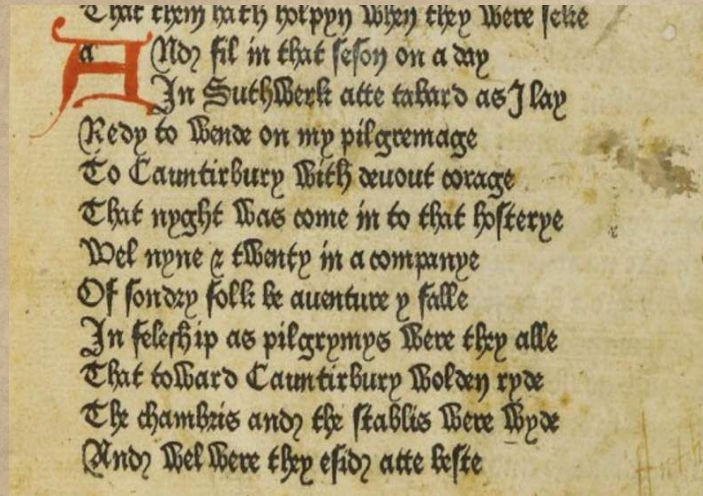
About ½ of the words in modern English have Old English roots.

Old English was spoken until around 1100 AD.

Middle English- 1100-1500 AD

The Norman Invasion

In 1066, the Normans from France, led by William the Conqueror, invaded and conquered England.



This French-infused English became known as Middle English.

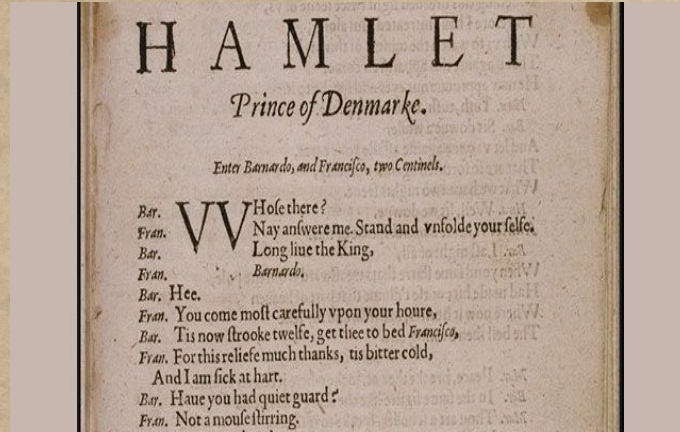
Changes in Language

The upper classes began to speak French, while the lower classes, due to their lack of access to education, continued to speak Old English.

Early Modern English (1500-1800)

The Great Vowel Shift

Big change in pronunciation leading to vowels sounding shorter and shorter. Many new words and phrases entered the language.



The Invention of Printing

Meant there was now a common language in print. Spelling and grammar became fixed, and the London dialect became the standard.

The first English dictionary was published in 1604.

Late Modern English (1800-present)

The major difference is the vocabulary. The Industrial Revolution created a need for new words, and due to the expansion of the British Empire, the English language adopted foreign words from many countries.

The English Colonization of America

- From around 1600, the colonization of North America resulted in the creation of a distinct American version of English.
- In many ways, American English is more like the English of Shakespeare (Early Modern) than the Late Modern British English.
- American English was also influenced by Spanish, French, South African, and Native American Languages.