

Achievements of Alfred

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Keystage history 1 2 3 4

He was never made a saint, as other Saxon kings, such as Edmund and Edward, were.

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Keystage history 1 2 3 4

He was the king who really started the English navy.

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Keystage history 1 2 3 4

He was very generous to his opponents after he had defeated them.

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Keystage history 1 2 3 4

He invented the candle clock

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Keystage history 1 2 3 4

His was the only surviving Anglo-Saxon province after the Vikings had taken the rest. If he had lost England would have been run by the Vikings.

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Keystage history 1 2 3 4

He translated the most important books of the time from Latin into Old English which more people could then read.

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Keystage history 1 2 3 4

He re-organised the military to stop further Viking attacks. He set up a series of forts in towns called *burhs*. These settlements had streets set out like grids contained within strong defences.

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Keystage history 1 2 3 4

Because of what he did, his sons were able to conquer lands in the East and North back from the Vikings.

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Keystage history 1 2 3 4

He set up schools for priests and did a lot to improve education.

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Keystage history 1 2 3 4

The only reason people think Alfred is so great is because he got a man called Asser to write only good things about him in his biography, leaving out all the bad.

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Keystage history 1 2 3 4

Alfred's mother died when Alfred was only 6 years old so the story about him learning a whole book by heart to get the prize of the book from his mother may not be true.

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Keystage history 1 2 3 4

It was later kings Athelstan and Edgar who really were the first kings of united England. Whilst Alfred had to fight off the Vikings, these kings were so good they were never attacked.

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Keystage history 1 2 3 4

The story of Alfred and the cakes was only mentioned a long time after his death.

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Keystage history 1 2 3 4

Coins at the time had the head of Alfred and the Mercian king on, suggesting Alfred wasn't obviously the most important Saxon king.

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