



# Alfred the Great

All about his life

# **Who was Alfred the Great?**

- Alfred the Great was the King of Wessex from AD871 to AD886 and was King of the Anglo-Saxons, after the death of his brother.
- He was born in AD849 and died on 26th October AD899.
- He had four older brothers who all ruled as King before he did.



# What did he do while he was king?

- Alfred was described as being a fierce and brave warrior.
- When he became King, Alfred's personal qualities enabled him to rally his people and inspire those to keep going.
- Alfred proved himself to be a clear-sighted tactician, a valiant, and insightful leader, courageous but willing to deal with his enemies.
- In AD886 he recaptured London and set about renovating the city.
- He also believed that English boys should receive an education and he set up a school at his court.

# Was he actually great?

- Alfred was not only a great leader, but he was also interested in learning, and in the promotion of English as a written language.
- Alfred was the first King to write books
- What really made him stand out to succeeding generations is that his Welsh Adviser wrote a biography of the King in AD893.
- In 2002 BBC poll voted Alfred the 14th Greatest Briton of all time.
- There is a statue of King Alfred in Winchester.