



Unit of work
The Vikings and Anglo-Saxon struggles

Year group
5

Prior learning:

- Beginning to understand the chronology of British history
- Knows key dates from Roman Britain
- Aware of the Anglo-Saxons history

National Curriculum:

- The Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor

Knowledge/ Skills

The Vikings (also known as Norsemen) came from the countries we now call Norway, Sweden and Denmark. This area is known as Scandinavia. Norsemen travelled the seas on longboats raiding and plundering lands. The Viking Age in Britain began around 1200 years ago and lasted for just over 200 years. Around the year AD 790 Vikings first started to raid Britain. They started out as short trips to steal treasure and take slaves. In time, Vikings made their home in Britain They drove the Saxons out of part of Britain and took it for themselves. The Saxon King, King Alfred of Wessex, fought them in a great battle but he could not stop them at first so had to let them have part of the country in a treaty known as Danelaw.

Vocabulary and definitions

Word	Definition
Longship	Longship A Viking ship used for fighting and carrying out raids.
Monastery	Monastery A place where people who have dedicated their lives to religion, such as monks
Norsemen	Norsemen The name given to people living in Scandinavia at the time of the Vikings.
Pagan	Pagan A person who believes in many gods.
Plunder	Take loot during a raid, often causing damage at the same time.
Raid	A surprise attack.
Rune	A letter from the alphabet used by Vikings.
Saga	A long Viking poem, which tells the stories of warriors and heroes.
Scandinavia	The countries of Norway, Sweden and Denmark. This is the area Vikings came

Significant people

- King Alfred the Great (AD 849-899)- Alfred did a lot of great things for England including defeating the Vikings in several battles
- King Athelstan (AD 894-939) – considered the first King of Britain and was remembered as great leader.
- King Canute (AD 995-1035)- Viking King of England, Denmark and Norway.

Timeline

AD 700- The Viking Age begins.
 AD 793- First invasion to Britain raiding monasteries on the coast, including Lindisfarne.
 AD 866- Danes capture York (which the Vikings called Jorvik) and make it their kingdom.
 AD 876- Vikings settle permanently in Britain.
 AD 886- King Alfred defeats the Vikings but allows them to settle in Eastern England.
 AD 1001- Vikings land in America and establish a settlement.
 AD 1014- King Canute of Denmark becomes King of England.
 AD 1066- Battle of Hastings take place and William the conqueror is crowned King.
 AD 1100- End of the Viking age.