

Vikings Knowledge Organiser

Who were the Vikings

The Vikings were Norse people who came from an area called Scandinavia (countries such as Norway, Sweden and Denmark). The Viking age in European history was from about AD700 to 1100. During this period, many Vikings left their homelands in Scandinavia and trave



Viking Raids

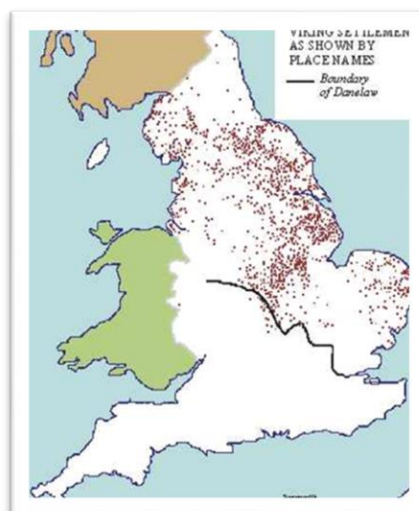
The name 'Viking' comes from a language called 'Old Norse' and means 'a pirate raid'. People who went off raiding in ships were said to be 'going Viking'. The first Viking raid recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle was around AD787. The Vikings did not send many ships on their first raids. They made surprise attacks on places like Lindisfarne. There was no English navy to guard the coasts, so it was easy for small groups of Vikings to land on a beach or sail up a river. The Vikings were pagans, not Christians like most people living in Britain at the time. They did not think twice about raiding a monastery. Christian monasteries in Britain were easy targets for the Vikings. The monks had no weapons and the buildings were filled with valuable treasures, like gold, jewels and books.



Key vocabulary

Archaeology	The study of the past by examining the remains of buildings, tools and other objects.
Artefacts	An object that is made by a human being, especially one that is of cultural importance.
Conquer	If one country conquers another, they take complete control of their land.
Invade	To enter another country by force with an army.
Kingdom	A country or region that is ruled by a king or queen.
Longboat	A type of Scandinavian warship.
Monastery	A building where people lived and worshiped, devoting their time to God.
Pagans	People who didn't believe there was just one God but a number of Gods and Goddesses.
Raiders	People enter a place illegally to steal.
Scandinavia	Name given to a countries in Northern Europe including Denmark, Sweden and Norway.
Settlement	A place or region where people come to live.
Sources	Something that provides information about the past.

Viking Settlements



-by	farm, homestead or village
-thorpe	farm
-thwait	farm, clearing, meadow
-toft	house or plot of land

Ruthless warriors or peaceful settlers?

Not all the Vikings were bloodthirsty warriors. Some came to fight, but others came peacefully, to settle. They were farmers, and kept animals and grew crops. They were skilful at crafting, and made beautiful metalwork and wooden carvings. Vikings sailed the seas trading goods to buy silver, silks, spices, wine, jewellery, glass and pottery to bring back to their homes.

Timeline

700	789	793	865	866	876	886	1014	1066
The Viking Age begins	First recorded Viking attack	Viking raid on Lindisfarne	Viking army from Denmark invades England	Danes capture York (Jorvik)	Vikings from Denmark, Sweden and Norway settle permanently in England	King Alfred defeats the Vikings / Allows them to settle in East England	King Canute (Cnut) of Denmark King of England	Battle of Hastings / William I King of England