KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

HISTORY YEAR 5

Were the Vikings raiders, traders or something else?

MY LEARNING JOURNEY

1	2	3	4	5	6
When and why did Vikings come to Britain?	Were Vikings raiders, traders or something else?	Where did Vikings trade and why?	Why do sagas tell different versions?	How did raids and settlements affect communities?	What were the Vikings' achievements and impact?

Previously, I learnt to…

- Explain the end of Roman rule.
- Describe Anglo-Saxon settlement.
- Explain kingdoms and Viking threats.
- Make inferences from artefacts.

In this unit, I am learning…

- ❑ Explain where Vikings came from and why.
- ❑ Support inferences with source evidence.
- ❑ Sequence events and judge their significance for different groups.
- ❑ Name trade routes and explain their importance.
- ❑ Explain why saga interpretations differ.
- ❑ Evaluate the impact of Viking achievements.

Looking ahead: In Years 5 and 6, I will learn…

- Later in Year 5, evaluate Tudor sources.
- In Year 6, compare census evidence.
- Justify conclusions using several sources.

VOCABULARY

Word	Meaning
achievement	A significant accomplishment or contribution that had a lasting impact.
balanced viewpoint	Considering all views in a fair way.
exchange	Giving something to someone and receiving something in return.
impact	The effect or change something has on a person, place or situation.
interpretation	An explanation of the past based on evidence.
Jorvik	The city now called York.
oral tradition	Passing stories and poems by word of mouth from one generation to another.
saga	A long story of heroic achievement found in Norse literature.
stereotype	A fixed idea about a group of people that is often not true.
trade route	A long-distance route along which items are transported.
Vikings	People from Scandinavia known for raiding, trading and settling overseas.

Vikings · Year 5

Key Viking dates in Britain (not to scale)

AD 793	AD 865	AD 878	AD 927	AD 1016	AD 1042
Lindisfarne raid	Great Army arrives	Edington; peace follows	Athelstan takes York	Cnut becomes king	Edward the Confessor becomes king

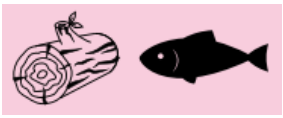
Origins and raiding

Vikings came from Scandinavia: Norway, Denmark and Sweden. Land, wealth and opportunities drew people overseas. Raiders stole valuables and enslaved people. Monastery accounts show the victims' experience; consider their viewpoint.



Trading networks

Routes linked Scandinavia with Britain and Ireland, the Baltic, and eastern rivers towards Constantinople and Baghdad. Timber, furs and other goods were exchanged for silver, silk and spices. Trade brought wealth and contact.



Settlement and Danelaw

Many Vikings farmed, made goods and traded in towns such as Jorvik (York). Agreements with Anglo-Saxon rulers recognised areas of control. Fighting and changes of territory continued. Settlement could bring both disruption and exchange.



Why sagas differ

Sagas often passed through oral storytelling before being written down later. Compare what two accounts emphasise, omit or change. A story praising a hero may differ from an account by people who suffered a raid.

Achievements and impact

Seafaring connected distant places. Towns and trade networks grew; place names and words survive. Judge effects on different groups: a trader might gain wealth while a raided community suffered loss. Support a balanced interpretation with evidence.

A balanced conclusion

Were Vikings raiders, traders or something else? Explain how communities could take several roles. Choose evidence and consider missing viewpoints.