

Term 6: The Vikings!

Key events and facts:

- The Vikings had left Scandinavia to set out on expedition to raid and settle in Britain.
- The Vikings were great traders and skilled seafarers. They were skilled at farming, fishing, craft work and hunting.
- The Vikings raided and invaded Britain repeatedly, setting up bases and taking land and riches, particularly from monasteries as they had easy riches and were not well defended.
- King Alfred of Wessex, also known as Alfred the Great, initially fought the Vikings, also known as the Danes, but then peace was agreed and the country was divided. Wessex and Danelaw were created to eventually be united into a united English kingdom.
- As a result from the conflict between the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, two new kingdoms grew and Scotland and England became firmly established.
- The Viking and Anglo-Saxon rule came to an end in 1066, during the Battle of Hastings.

Where did they come from?



Norway Sweden Denmark

Key vocabulary:

Conquer – to get something by force

Danelaw – the area in Britain that was ruled by the Vikings

Danes – another name for the Vikings

Dragonship – another name for Viking Longboat. This is because it has a dragonhead at the helm in order to scare off enemies.

Invade – to take over land

Knarr – a Viking trading ship



Longhouse – Viking house (one long, rectangular room).

Norse – North

Norsemen – the name given to people living in Scandinavia at the time of the Vikings – means men from the North.

Raid – a surprise attack to steal valuable items and slaves

Runes – Viking letters of the alphabet

Scandinavia – the area that is made up of the countries: Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

Settlement – a place where people go to live

Valhalla – the Vikings believe they go to this place after death.

Viking – the name given to a highly skilled warrior, sea-farmer and farmer from Norway, Denmark and Sweden.



Viking Gods:

Odin – the leader of the gods. His wife was Frigg.

Thor – the god of thunder. Thor had iron gloves, a magic belt and a hammer. He was also the god of protection. 'Thursday' is named after him.

Freya – the goddess of love, war and death.

Loki – the god of mischief.

Frigg – goddess of motherhood. She is the wife of Odin and the day of the week 'Friday' is named after her.

Heimdall – the guardian god. He is believed to have strong hearing and sight and keeps watch for enemies.

Settlements:

Vikings lived in 'longhouses', which were houses made of one room. They were made of wattle and daub and had thatched roofs.



The fire for cooking food was often in the middle of the room with a hole in the ceiling to allow the smoke to escape.