



**Topic:** The Vikings

**Year:** 5

**Term:** Autumn

## Key Facts

### Who were the Vikings?

The Vikings were groups of explorers, traders and pirates who sailed from Scandinavia to settle in Britain.

They were known as 'Norsemen' which meant 'Men from the North'.

### Why did the Vikings come to Britain?

One of the reasons was because they were keen farmers. The soil in Britain was much more fertile than in Scandinavia.

### How did Vikings live?

Vikings were excellent farmers. They lived on farms in small villages and kept cows, pigs and sheep for milk, wool, and meat. The houses in these villages were made from wattle and daub that had a straw roof.

They made jewellery to show off how rich a person was.

### What codes and laws did the Vikings follow?

Vikings were Pagans, meaning that they worshipped lots of different Gods.

They had laws which all Vikings were meant to follow. These were not written down but passed on by word of mouth.

Punishments for breaking these laws could include fighting to the death or taking revenge on someone.

Vikings told sagas that were similar to myths, legends and fairytales that we tell today.

Vikings made sacrifices of animals and even humans to their Gods.

Vikings believed that when a warrior died, they would go to a place called Valhalla.

Word	Explanation
Anglo-Saxon	main group of people living in Britain when the Vikings invaded
Danegeld	money paid to Vikings to stop them from raiding
Danelaw	area in Britain that the Danish Vikings ruled over
longboat	Viking ship used for long voyages and trading
monastery	holy place where monks lived
Norsemen	name given to people living in Scandinavia – 'men of the North'
Pagan	person who believes in many Gods
pillage	causing damage and stealing things that do not belong to you
raid	surprise attack with the intention of plundering and pillaging valuable resources
rune	one of 16 letters from the Viking alphabet
sacrifice	killing an animal or person as a gift to the Gods
saga	a story resembling a myth, legend or fairytale that is told to others
Scandinavia	countries of Norway, Sweden and Denmark from where Vikings came
trade	the way people make money by selling items or swapping them for other items
Valhalla	place where Vikings believed they would go after death if they died bravely in battle



## Chronology of Events

793 CE	Vikings raid the monastery at Lindisfarne on the Northeast coast of England
866 CE	Vikings capture the city of York and name it Jorvik
878 CE	Vikings settle permanently in England
886 CE	King Alfred signs a treaty with the Vikings, splitting England between Vikings and English - the Vikings now live in The Danelaw
901 - 937 CE	Danelaw is conquered by the English and many Vikings leave
954 CE	Eric Bloodaxe, King of York, is thrown out
980 CE	More Viking raids take place on England
1014 CE	King Cnut of Denmark captures the English crown and becomes King of England as well as Denmark
1041 CE	Edward 'the Confessor' becomes King of England after returning from Normandy
1066 CE	The Battle of Stamford Bridge signals the final defeat of the Vikings

## Viking Trade

The Vikings traded all over Europe. They even travelled to Central Asia.

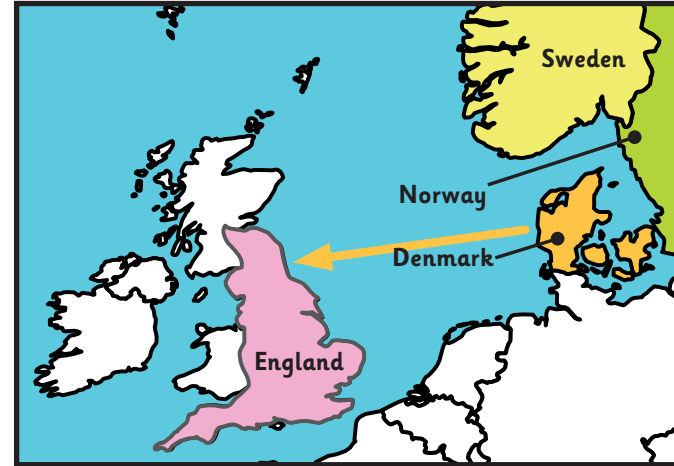
They bought goods and materials such as silver, silk, spices, wine, jewellery, glass and pottery.

In return, they sold items such as honey, tin, wheat, wool, wood, iron, fur, leather, fish and walrus ivory.

They also bought and sold slaves too.



## Key Map



The above map shows the direct route that Danish Vikings would have taken when they arrived in Holy Island in 73 CE.

Norway, Sweden and Denmark form Scandinavia.



## What was life like in England during the time of the Vikings?

Viking history is intertwined with the history of the Anglo-Saxons. The Anglo-Saxons were the people who already lived in England.

The Anglo-Saxons and Vikings fought many battles during their time in England.

For a while, the Vikings lived in a large part of England and farmed the land in an area known as The Danelaw.

However, the Anglo-Saxons were not happy with this arrangement and continued to fight with the Vikings.

## What happened to the Vikings in England?

In 1066, the Viking, Harald Hardrada landed and attempted to take control of the English crown and the city of York. York had always been an important city to the Vikings.

At the battle of Stamford Bridge, just outside of York, he was defeated.

Though Vikings still continued to attack England after his death, this was considered to be the end of the Vikings in England.