

# Vikings and Anglo-Saxons

## Vocabulary

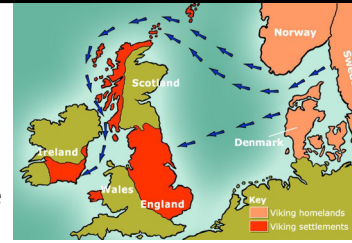
<b>Scandinavia</b>	The region of Europe that is now Denmark, Sweden and Norway.
<b>Old Norse</b>	The language spoken by the people who came from the region that is now Scandinavia.
<b>Viking</b>	( <i>Vikingr</i> in Old Norse) To go on expeditions abroad, usually by sea. These expeditions often included raiding and plundering.
<b>longship</b>	A long, narrow boat, powered by both oars and a sail.
<b>raid</b>	To attack a place by surprise.
<b>plunder</b>	Steal things during a raid and often cause damage/ destroy property at the same time.
<b>monastery</b>	A religious building where monks live and worship.
<b>Danelaw</b>	The part of England conquered by the Danes (Vikings) and where their law was followed instead of Anglo-Saxon law.
<b>Danegeld</b>	A tax (money) paid by Anglo-Saxon people to stop the Danes attacking the Anglo-Saxon areas.
<b>Valhalla</b>	Vikings believed that warriors who died bravely in battle would go to Valhalla—the hall of Odin, god of war and death.

## What you will learn by the end of the unit:

- Draw a timeline showing key events and historical figures during the Viking Age.
- Explain the importance of key historical figures, e.g. Alfred the Great, Edward the Confessor.
- Explain who the Vikings were and where they invaded and settled.
- Explain the Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggles for power.
- Explain what life was like in Viking Britain.
- Explain the impact of the Viking Age on modern Britain.
- Use primary and secondary sources to understand that historical sources may reflect different viewpoints.

## Key facts

- The Vikings came from the region of Europe that is now Scandinavia—Denmark, Sweden and Norway.
- They designed and built new ships, called longships, which could travel further and faster. These had a wooden carving of a fierce animal—dragon or snake—on the front.
- The first Vikings to invade did not settle in England. They raided and plundered monasteries along the coast.



• The Vikings sailed a great army over to England fought many battles with the Anglo-Saxons. The Anglo-Saxon King Alfred divided England with the Vikings who settled in the new area known as Danelaw. Anglo-Saxon kings paid Danegeld to the Vikings to keep the peace. Later, King Athelstan and his Anglo-Saxon army fought the Vikings again and took back the Viking controlled areas of England.

- Vikings were pagan and believed in many gods, such as Thor (god of thunder and strength) and Odin (god of war and death). They believed that if a warrior fought bravely and died in battle, they would go to Valhalla.
- Vikings not only raided and plundered, but they also travelled and traded with many countries around the world.
- The Viking language was called Old Norse. The Viking alphabet was called Futhark and the letters were known as runes. However, Vikings rarely wrote anything down.
- In 1066, the Viking and Anglo-Saxon Age in England came to an end after the King of England, Harold II, was defeated at the Battle of Hastings by William of Normandy.



Necklace pendant of Thor's hammer

- The impact of the Vikings on Britain can be seen with:
  - place names, e.g. York (Jorvik)
  - days of the week, e.g. Thursday is named after the god, Thor
  - words, e.g. 'happy', a mix of Old Norse 'heppinn' meaning 'to be fortunate' and 'hap' meaning 'luck'. Also, 'anger' from the Old Norse 'angr' meaning 'trouble'.

## Timeline showing Vikings in history

15,000 BC—550 BC	Stone Age to Iron Age
750BC – 43 AD	Ancient Egyptians
776BC - 146BC	Ancient Greeks
BC43 - AD410	Romans
AD410 - 793	Anglo-Saxons
AD793-1066	Anglo-Saxons and Vikings

## Timeline of events

<b>AD 793</b>	The Vikings attacked the monastery at Lindisfarne.
<b>AD 865</b>	'The Great Viking Army' from Denmark invaded England.
<b>AD 866</b>	The Danes (Vikings from Denmark) captured York (Jorvik).
<b>AD 871</b>	Alfred the Great became King of the Anglo-Saxons.
<b>AD 876</b>	Vikings started to settle permanently in Britain.
<b>AD 878</b>	The Danes invaded Wessex but they were defeated by King Alfred at the Battle of Edington.
<b>AD 886</b>	Alfred divided England with the Danes in a peace treaty (deal) to stop the fighting. Danelaw was established in the North and East of England.
<b>AD 924</b>	Athelstan became King of the Anglo-Saxons.
<b>AD 927</b>	Athelstan conquered York (last Viking area) and became King of England.
<b>AD 1013</b>	Swegn Forkbeard became the first Danish King of England. However, he died five weeks later.
<b>AD 1016</b>	Canute (son of Sewyn Forkbeard) became King of England.
<b>AD 1042</b>	Edward the Confessor (Anglo-Saxon) became King of England.
<b>AD 1066</b>	Harold II (Godwinson), the last Anglo-Saxon king, was defeated by William of Normandy (William I or William the Conqueror) at the Battle of Hastings.