

# The Vikings and Anglo-Saxons

## History

### Oak

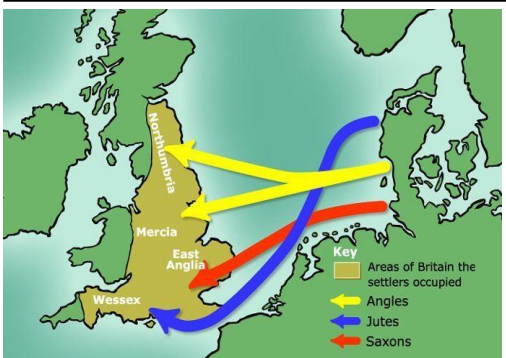


Overview
Subject - History
As historians, the children will learn about the Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor. The children will consider the causes for this struggle and learn about the resistance to this. Building on their knowledge, the children will learn about Anglo-Saxon laws and justice and consider how new sources of information can impact upon historic understanding. Through studying Viking life, the children will consider the significance of the Viking invasions on Britain and compare this to life today.

Enquiry question
How did the Vikings change Britain?

Previous Knowledge
What should I already know or be able to do?

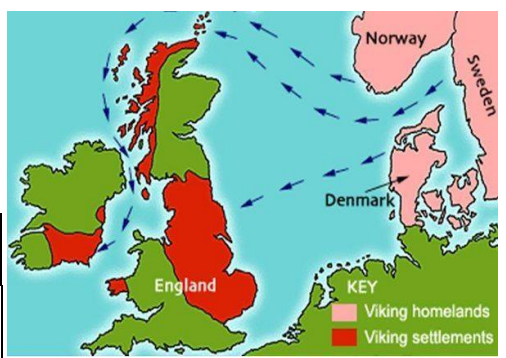
<p><b>KS1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Order events chronologically</li> <li>Compare similarities and differences between lives in the past and today.</li> </ul> <p><b>LKS2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand the reasons behind the people in Britain attacking each other during the Stone Age to Iron Age</li> <li>Make comparisons between different time periods.</li> </ul> <p><b>LKS2</b></p> <p>Know about Alexander the Great's conquests and how he conquered countries so successfully</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Know that the Romans first came to Britain in AD43</li> <li>Sequence key historical dates and events.</li> <li>Make comparisons between lives and beliefs within different time periods.</li> </ul>
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The Anglo Saxons
<p>After the last Roman soldiers left in 410 CE, new people came in ships across the North Sea: the Anglo-Saxons. The Anglo-Saxon age in Britain was from around AD 410 to 1066. They were descendants of tribes from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands.</p> <p>Some Anglo-Saxons were warriors who enjoyed fighting and they thought the Britons were weak and easy to beat without the Romans around. Others came peacefully to find land to farm. By AD 600, the Anglo-Saxons had claimed England as their own country and divided it into seven kingdoms. Each kingdom was ruled by an Anglo-Saxon King.</p>

Historical skills and knowledge
What will I know or be able to do by the end of this unit?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand why the Vikings raided and invaded Britain.</li> <li>Know about Viking life and the impact of invasions on Britain.</li> <li>Sequence dates chronologically.</li> <li>Make comparisons between people's lives and beliefs in different time periods.</li> <li>Describe the impact of the Vikings.</li> <li>Use a range of historical sources (primary and secondary) and how recent evidence has changed our views.</li> </ul>
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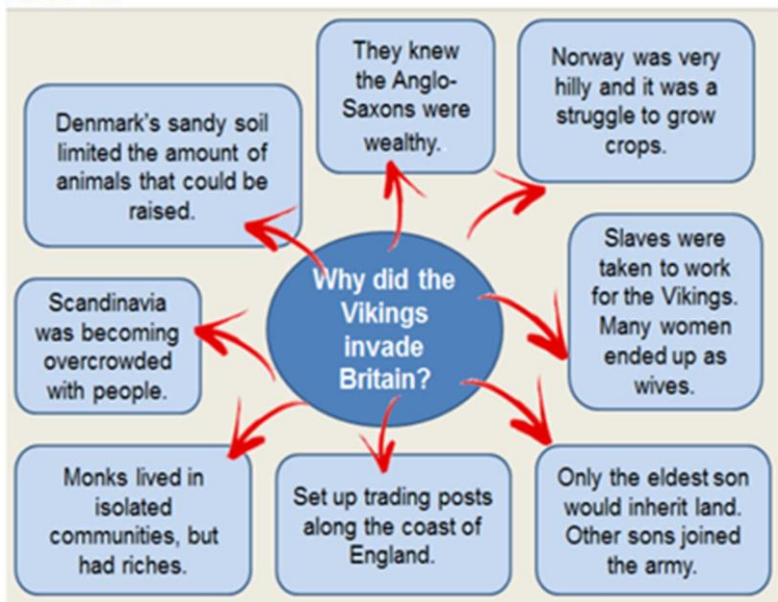
The Vikings
<p>The Vikings came from the modern Scandinavian countries of Denmark, Norway and Sweden. They travelled in boats called longships and first arrived in Britain around AD 787. The Vikings raided places such as monasteries and pillaged expensive items to trade. They were looking for valuable goods like gold and jewels, imported foods and other useful materials. The Vikings also wanted to claim land and tried to take over much of Britain. They invaded and settled in Scotland before heading south to places such as York. By AD 878 the Vikings had settled permanently in Britain.</p>

Text Link
Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo

### Viking Raids and Invasion

The Vikings were famous for sailing huge distances to raid. This led the Vikings to Anglo-Saxon Britain; their first raid was on the Monastery of Lindisfarne in North-East England. This was an easy raid for the Vikings as monasteries were not very well protected and contained valuable goods like gold, jewels and imported foods. The Vikings also stole manuscripts and bibles and then sold them back to religious leaders who could not bear to see them damaged or sold.

The Vikings continued their raids and went on to invade Scotland. They were able to build up their army and soon after, captured the city of York. The Anglo-Saxon King Alfred the Great (King of Wessex) managed to force the Vikings out of the South of England but this was short-lived. By AD 878, the Vikings had settled permanently in England, overran Wessex and forced King Alfred into hiding.



**Beliefs**

The Vikings brought their way of life and beliefs to Britain. Gods were particularly important to the Vikings and they loved to tell stories about magic and monsters.

They believed that their many Gods would impact different aspects of their lives, such as:

- **Odin** (Father of the Gods)
- **Frigg** (Odin's wife and the Goddess of love)
- **Thor** (God of thunder and protector of humans)
- **Loki** (God of firelight and mischief)
- **Tyr** (God of war and justice)

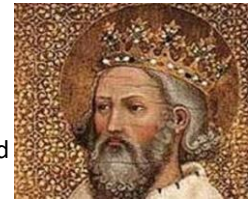
Vikings also believed they would go to Valhalla, where they would spend their afterlife.



Key Vocabulary	
archaeology	The study of the buildings, graves, tools and other objects that belonged to people who lived in the past, in order to learn about their culture and society.
AD	Anno Domini - "in the year of our Lord". Used to show dates after the birth of Jesus Christ.
conflict	A disagreement about something important.
conquer	To get or gain by force: win by fighting.
descendant	A relative from later generations.
invasion	One country attacking another to take it over.
raid	To enter a place to steal something.
Scandinavia	Norway, Sweden and Denmark.
settlement	A colony or any small community of people.

**Significant person**

Edward the Confessor was king of England for 24 years. He earned his nickname because of his religious devotion and was later made a saint. His death in 1066 led to the Norman Conquest of England. Edward had no children, and he may have promised the throne to William, the Duke of Normandy, when he died. However, on his deathbed in 1066 Edward apparently changed his mind. Instead, he named Harold as his successor. When Edward died on January 5, 1066, William invaded England and fought Harold for the throne. Harold died in the Battle of Hastings, and William became King William I. This became known as the Norman Conquest of England.



**Timeline**

AD 350	Anglo Saxons raid England.
AD 410	Romans leave England and the England shores are unprotected.
AD 449	Arrival of the Jutes from Jutland, Angles from South Denmark and Saxons from Germany.
AD 450	Saxons from Germany settle in Kent
AD 556	7 kingdoms are created across Britain.
AD 597	St Augustine brings Christianity to Britain from Rome and becomes Archbishop of Canterbury.
AD 617	Northumbria becomes a supreme kingdom.
AD 700	The Viking age began.
AD 779	Mercia becomes the supreme kingdom.
AD 793	The first invasion to Britain. Monasteries were raided.
AD 866	The Danes capture York and made it their Kingdom.
AD 876	Viking settle permanently in Britain.
AD 1001	Vikings land in America and establish settlement.
AD 1014	King Canute of Denmark becomes king of England.
AD 1066	Battle of Hastings takes place and William the Conqueror is crowned king.
AD 1100	End of Viking age