

Vikings

History

Knowledge Organiser

Key Facts

- Vikings were sailors, warriors and traders from Scandinavia and colonised large parts of Europe between 790AD and 1100AD.
- They carried out many raids across Europe and were involved in many bloody battles with the Anglo Saxons for control in Britain.
- Their raids targeted churches and monasteries due to their richness in gold and silver.
- While initially attacking Lindesfarne during a raid, the Vikings soon settled.
- Their ongoing battles with the Anglo Saxons led to many changes in Britain such as Danelaw. This was the division of the Anglo Saxon and Viking kingdoms in Britain. The Vikings ruled most of the north-east of England.
- Danegeld was also introduced as a tax which people could pay to the Vikings to protect themselves from their aggression.
- The Vikings worshipped many gods, each with different human strengths and weaknesses. These included Odin and Thor, the God of Thunder.
- Vikings believed that those who died bravely in battle would be carried to Valhalla—Viking warrior heaven.

Chronology



776BC	The first Olympic games take place
793AD	Viking attack on Lindisfarne (the first planned Viking raid).
871AD	Alfred the Great becomes king of Wessex.
876AD	Guthrum new leader of the Vikings attacks Wessex.
878AD	Battle at Chippenham. Many of Alfred's men are killed.
878AD	Alfred's army beat the Danish Vikings. Alfred and Guthrum make a treaty.
924AD	Athelstan becomes the King of Mercia.
928 AD	Athelstan retakes York from the Vikings and becomes the first King of England
954AD	The last Viking king of Jorvik was killed in battle
1002AD	Aethelred takes revenge on Vikings, orders all Danish men to be killed.
1042AD	Edward becomes King, and becomes known as Edward the Confessor.
1066AD	Battle of Hastings

Vocabulary

Lindesfarne	First place that the Vikings attacked
Viking	Norse people who came from an area called
raid	A surprise attack
invade	To enter a country by force
Jorvik	Viking settlement (York)
archaeology	Study of objects from the past
Anglo-Saxon	Main group of people living in Britain when the Vikings invaded
Danelaw	Area of England ruled by Vikings

Useful links and sources

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/vikings/>

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/general-history/10-facts-about-the-vikings/>

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Vikings/353900>

<https://historyforkids.org/the-vikings-facts-for-kids/>

<https://www.jorvikvikingcentre.co.uk/?>