



Vikings



A Viking longship

Useful Vocabulary

Danegeld - 'Paying the Dane'. King Ethelred paid the Vikings 4500kg of silver to go home but they kept returning and were paid 22,000kg of silver in *Danegeld* altogether.

exile - to be sent away

invade - to enter and occupy land

kingdom - an area ruled by a king

longship - a long, wooden, narrow boat used by the Vikings

outlawed - having all property taken away and no longer being able to live in the community

pagans - a religion where many gods and goddesses are worshipped

pillaged - to violently steal something

raid - a surprise attack

The Early Vikings

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, such as: 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 **invade** and settled in Scotland before heading south to places like York. By AD 878 the Vikings had settled permanently in Britain.

Viking Life

Farms - Vikings lived on farms and kept cows, pigs and sheep for milk, wool and meat.

Houses - Walls made out of stone or wood. A straw roof. Wattle and daub (sticks and mud/dung) for the inside of the walls.

Jewellery - Was worn to show off how rich a person was.

Pagans - Vikings arrived as Pagans but eventually converted to Christianity.

Sagas - Vikings used rhyme to tell stories about adventures and battles against monsters.

Viking Laws & Punishments

Viking laws were not written down but passed on by word of mouth. Punishments could include fines, being semi-outlawed, fighting to the death, or taking revenge on someone who has killed a family member.

Key dates

CE793: Vikings began raiding Britain, landing in Lindisfarne and plundering the monastery

CE866: Vikings invade and conquer York, changing its name to Jorvik

CE1066: Anglo-Saxon and Viking rule ended in Britain

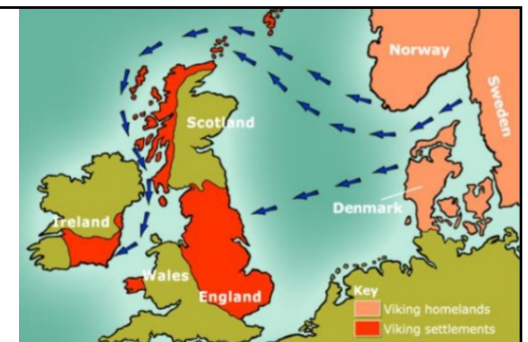
Significant historical figures:

Alfred the Great - defended his kingdom against the Vikings

King Canute - conquered England, Denmark, Norway and parts of Sweden

Eric Bloodaxe - Jorvik (York)'s last Viking King

This map shows where the Vikings invaded and settled in Britain





Anglo-Saxons

In 1939, a discovery of an Anglo-Saxon ship burial was made in **Sutton Hoo**, Suffolk. This find of a helmet, coins, treasures and other artefacts is believed to have belonged to an Anglo-Saxon king (probably King Raedwald).

The helmet (reconstructed by historians) found at Sutton Hoo is one of only 4 ever found.



Useful Vocabulary

BCE/CE - Before Common Era or Common Era. The Common Era begins in Year 1.

artefacts - historical items

exile - to be sent away

invade - to enter and occupy land

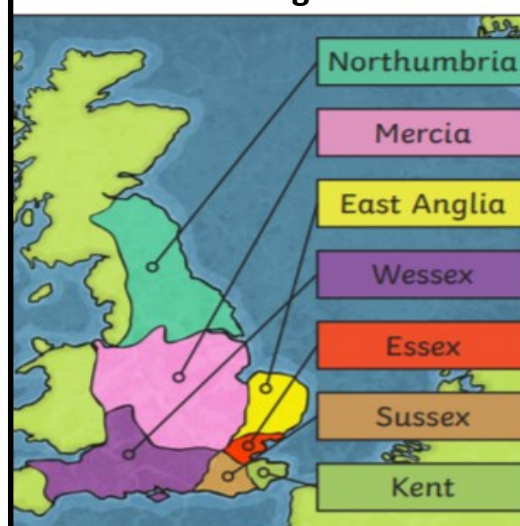
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Saxon Kingdoms



Anglo-Saxon Religion

Most of the Britons left when the Roman Empire collapsed were Christians. When the Anglo-Saxons invaded Britain, they were mostly Pagans. The king of the Anglo-Saxon gods was Woden. Other prominent gods were Tiw, Thunor and Frige. Some days of the week were

Anglo-Saxon Kings and Kingdoms

The kings of Anglo-Saxon Britain each ruled their own **kingdom** and the people in it. They fought to defend their **kingdom** or take control of other **kingdoms**. When the Anglo-Saxons first settled in Britain, there were seven **kingdoms**, but by AD 878 there was just one **kingdom** (Wessex) left, as the others had been over-run by the Vikings. Many Anglo-Saxon kings tried to resist the Vikings and fought hard to keep control of their land. King Alfred the Great was the best known Anglo-Saxon king and the first to defeat the Vikings in battle.

In AD 1042, Edward the Confessor became the King. He was known as the 'Confessor' because he led a very religious life and was very kind and thoughtful.

In AD 1066, Harold II tried to stop Harald of Norway from **invading** England and killed him in the battle of Stamford Bridge. William, the Duke of Normandy, thought he should be king so came to fight Harold II in the Battle of Hastings (AD 1066). Harold was shot through the eye with an arrow and died in the battle. William of Normandy became King and was known as William the Conqueror. This brought the Viking and Anglo-Saxon age to an end in 1066.

Key dates

CE410(approx.): Saxons invaded and settled in Britain

CE1066: Anglo-Saxon and Viking rule ended in Britain

Significant historical figures:

Alfred the Great - defended his kingdom against the Vikings

Edward the Confessor - last reigning Anglo-Saxon king, whose death led to the fight for power at the Battle of Hastings