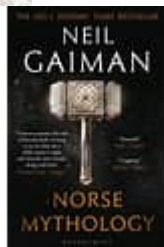


The Vikings



Viking Laws and 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 revenge on someone who has killed a family member.

Key Learning

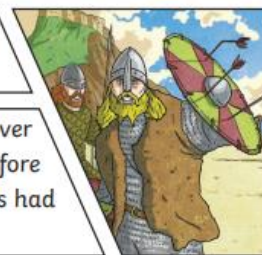
Throughout this topic we will be exploring the following areas:

Viking Raids
Alfred the Great
Religion
Danelaw
The Battle of Hastings

**Our big question is:
 Saxon and Viking
 settlement: Who
 did it better?**

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 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.

The Vikings Arrive

The Vikings came from the area of the modern Scandinavian countries (Denmark, Norway and Sweden).

They set out in boats called **longships** to 'go Viking' (which means to go travelling around looking for resources and land to claim as their own).

The Vikings first arrived in Britain around AD 787 and in AD 793 they **raided** and **pillaged** the monastery at Lindisfarne in Northumbria.

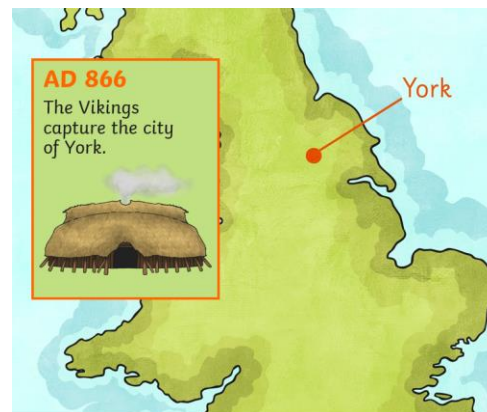


Glossary

Longship – a long, wooden, narrow boat used by the Vikings.

Pillage – to steal goods using violent tactics.

Raid – to suddenly attack a place.



empire	pillage	aristocracy	tribe	hostile	priory
emperor	barbarian	settlement	kingdom	idol	monk
rebellion	legion	native	capital	Scandinavia	invasion
raid	status	migration	Pagan	Word Mat	

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The Battle of Hastings



Alfred the Great

Alfred the Great was an Anglo-Saxon king. He is best known for building the Kingdom of England and making peace with the Vikings.

The Battle of Hastings began. Despite only having 5000 tired, footsore soldiers, Harold's army put up a very good defence. They were at the top of Senlac Hill and the Normans were at the bottom. The English army formed a shield wall with their shields and it was difficult for the Normans to break through it.

However, word went around that Duke William had been killed. This made the English soldiers drop their shield wall.



Alfred the Warrior

As king, Alfred was challenged by conflict with the Vikings. He was a good fighter and learnt many tactics from the Vikings, even though he was being defeated.

There were many battles but Alfred finally defeated the Vikings in AD 871. Some peace did follow but also more fighting, including a victory for Alfred in AD 878. Eventually, in AD 886, Alfred negotiated a land settlement with the Vikings.

- North and east England - ruled by Vikings and called Danelaw.
- Wessex and dependencies and West Mercia - ruled by Anglo-Saxons.



Did You Know...?

King Alfred died in AD 899.
He was 50 years old.

He is the only English ruler to be named 'the Great'.

He married Ealhswith of Mercia and they had five children.

Alfred loved learning and could translate Latin books into English.

The Viking-ruled section of England was known as the Danelaw.



What Was the Danelaw?

The Danelaw was an area of land that covered a large section of England around the 9th and 10th century.

It was ruled by Vikings after they began to **settle** in Anglo-Saxon England from around AD 800.

settle – To live somewhere permanently.