



Year 4/5 History Knowledge Organiser Who were the Vikings?



Subject Specific Skills

- recognise and use a range of primary and secondary sources to find out about the past
- identify key features, aspects and events of the time studied; describe the key features of the past, including attitudes, beliefs and the everyday lives of men, women and children

Prior Learning

- Chronological awareness of Britain's ancient past during the Viking and Anglo Saxon Period.
- Understanding of events and factors within Roman and Anglo Saxon/ Viking Britain
- Use of evidence to build up a past event

Timeline:

Date	Key Event
AD 793	The Vikings first attacked England in 793. They raided the monastery at Lindisfarne on Holy Island, off the coast of Northumberland.
865	In AD 865, the Danish 'Grand Army' marched into England and over the next few years conquered East Anglia and Northumberland.
866	The Danish army capture York (Jorvik) and make it their kingdom
871	King Ethelred, the West Saxon king, and his brother Alfred, defeat the Viking army at the Battle of Ashdown (in Berkshire).
886	King Alfred the Great defeats the Vikings but allows them to settle in Eastern England (the Kingdoms of York and East Anglia) This area on England becomes known as Danelaw and is ruled by the Viking King Guthrum.
954	Eric Bloodaxe, the last Viking King of Jorvik, is thrown out of York.
994	Olaf of Norway and Sven 'Forkbeard', son of the Danish king, lead an invading Danish army in an unsuccessful siege of London, and subsequently ravage the south-east.
1014	King Cnut (Canute) of Denmark captures the English Crown
1042	Edward the Confessor becomes King (A Saxon King)
1066	Battle of Hastings

Key Individuals:

AD 849 - 899	King Alfred the Great (AD 849-899) Defeated the Vikings in several battles to keep England under Anglo-Saxon rule.
966-1016	Ethelred the Unready – King of England twice, had to battle Viking invaders.
995-1035	King Cnut (Canute) – only man to be King of England, Denmark and Norway.
1003-1066	Edward the Confessor – became King in 1042.

Key Vocabulary

Angles, Jutes and Saxons The names of the people groups who came to settle in Britain after the Romans left, from Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands.

Burhs – Fortified town built

Celts -The Celts were the people who were already living in Britain at the time of the Roman invasion (Iron Age tribes)

Chieftan – The leader of a village or small group of people

Danegeld - a tax that the English kingdoms paid to the Vikings between the 9th and 11th centuries

Danelaw – The area of England ruled by Vikings

Freeman – A person who is not a slave and free to choose who he/she worked for

Kingdom – land ruled by a king

Lindisfarne – A monastery that the Vikings raided

Longship – A Viking ship with sails and oars

Monastery – A building where monks live

Pagan – A person who believed in many gods

Runes – Viking alphabet symbols to represent a sound

Scandinavia – Area made up of countries: Denmark, Sweden and Norway

Witan - The kings in each kingdom were advised by a group of powerful nobles called the Witan.

Key Knowledge:

- The first Viking raid recorded in the **Anglo-Saxon Chronicle** was around AD 787. It was the start of a fierce struggle between the **Anglo-Saxons** and the **Vikings**.
- The Vikings raided the monastery at Lindisfarne, in Northumberland, in 793 AD. From 865 AD they began to remain in Britain, rather than returning to their homelands.
- The Viking and Anglo-Saxon periods of British history occurred at the same time, with power passing from one side to the other.
- King Alfred (The Great). The Anglo-Saxon King was crowned in 871 AD. He is the only King to have 'Great' in his title. He believed education was important; had books translated from Latin to English, so people could read them and began to record history in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle.
- After much fighting, the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons made peace in 886 AD. Britain was effectively divided in two: The Danelaw to the east, which was governed by the Vikings, and Wessex and its dependencies largely to the west.
- During King Cnut's reign, he split England into four earldoms, appointing two Viking earls and two Anglo-Saxon earls. After his death in 1035, there were disagreements about who should be king and seven years of war followed. Eventually, the Witan (the Grand Council) decided that Edward, son of Ethelred the Unready, should be king.
- The Vikings were skilled sailors. They sailed all over the world in their longboats, travelling as far away as America, Southern Europe and Asia, in order to trade goods.
- Some Vikings learnt to read and write using runes. The runic alphabet is a series of symbols to represent a sound, much like our alphabet. They would use runes to label their possessions and so that people like merchants could keep track of their stock and sales.
- Vikings told stories orally. They would be learned by heart and passed down from generation to generation. One of the most popular was Beowulf.