



**Key Vocabulary:**

Archaeology	The study of the past by examining the remains of buildings and artefacts
Conquer	To take complete control of another's land
Invalidate	To enter a country by force, with an army
Kingdom	A country or region that is ruled by a King or Queen
Monastery	A building where monks lived and worshipped, devoting their time and life to God
Raiders	People who enter a place illegally and steal, often violently.
Scandinavia	The name given to countries in Northern Europe, including Denmark, Sweden and Norway.
Settlement	A place, or region, where people come to live
Sources	Something that provides information about the past

**Key Knowledge:**

**Who were the Vikings?**

The Vikings were **Norse** people who came from an area called **Scandinavia** (countries such as **Norway, Sweden and Denmark**).

The Viking age in European history was from about AD700 to 1100.

During this period, many Vikings left their homelands in Scandinavia and travelled by longboat to other countries, like Britain and Ireland.



**The Anglo-Saxons vs The Vikings:**

In AD865 an army of Vikings sailed across the **North Sea**. This time they wanted to conquer land rather than just raid it.

Over several years the army battled through northern England, taking control of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of **Northumbria, East Anglia** and most of **Mercia**.

By AD874, almost all the kingdoms had fallen to the Vikings. All except for **Wessex**, which was ruled by **Alfred the Great**. King Alfred beat the Viking army in battle but wasn't able to drive the Vikings out of Britain.

After years of fighting the Vikings and Alfred made a **peace agreement**. But even after this agreement, fighting went on for many more years. An imaginary dividing line was agreed to run across England, from **London in the south** towards **Chester in the northwest**.

The Anglo-Saxon lands were to the **west** and the Viking lands, known as the **Danelaw**, were roughly to the **east**.



**Viking raids:**

The name 'Viking' comes from a language called 'Old Norse' and means 'a pirate raid'. People who went off raiding in ships were said to be 'going Viking'.

The first Viking **raid** recorded in the **Anglo-Saxon Chronicle** was around AD787.

The Vikings did not send many ships on their first raids. They made **surprise attacks** on places like Lindisfarne. There was no English navy to guard the coasts, so it was easy for small groups of Vikings to land on a beach or sail up a river.

The Vikings were **pagans**, not **Christians** like most people living in Britain at the time. They did not think twice about raiding a **monastery**. Christian monasteries in Britain were easy targets for the Vikings. The **monks** had no weapons and the buildings were filled with valuable treasures, like gold, jewels and books.

## Key Knowledge:

Stone Age	Bronze Age	Ancient Egypt	Maya Civilisation	Iron Age	Ancient Rome	Ancient Greece	Anglo Saxons	Vikings	Tudors	Victorians	WW1	WW2	Moon Landing
15000 BC-3000 BC	3000 BC-800 BC	3100 BC-30 BC	2000 BC-AD 1697	800 BC-AD 43	800 BC-AD 476	776 BC - 146 BC	AD 410 - AD 1066	AD 793 - AD 1066	AD 1485-AD 1603	AD 1837 - AD 1901	AD 1914-AD 1918	AD 1939-AD 1945	AD 1969



### Were the Vikings really 'vicious'?

**Not every Viking was a 'vicious' warrior! It's true- some did come to fight, however, others came, in peace, to settle. They came to farm, grow crops and keep animals.**

**The Vikings were very skilled craftspeople, capable of making beautiful, intricate wooden carvings and metalwork.**

**Vikings sailed the seas, trading goods in order to buy silver, silks, spices, wine, jewellery, glass and pottery to take back to their homelands.**



Do you remember...?

The Anglo Saxon period in Britain lasted from AD410 - AD1066. The Anglo Saxons were a mix of tribes (Angles, Saxons and Jutes) that came from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. By around AD600, after much fighting, Britain had been divided up into 5 kingdoms. Around AD787, there were other Scandinavian tribes known as the Vikings raiding European countries.