

# Vikings

Why did the Vikings move to Britain?

## History

### Knowledge organiser

**Teaching focus:** Identify changes and links within and across the time periods

**Learning Lens:** Artefacts

**Class:** Year 5

### Previous Knowledge

To have knowledge of the Anglo Saxon invasion of Britain.

### Project Hook or 'Wow' memory

Make a Viking boat

### Learning Steps

### Key Knowledge (answers)

**Why did the Vikings settle in England?**

The Vikings came to Britain looking for lucrative new items to steal and trade. In addition, they wanted land that they could take and claim as their own. They particularly liked to raid monasteries, like the one at Lindisfarne. The monasteries were not very well protected and contained valuable goods like gold and jewels, imported foods and other useful materials. The Vikings also stole manuscripts and bibles.

**Where and when did the Vikings invade England?**

The Anglo-Saxons had settled in Britain long before the Vikings invaded. During the Viking age, until 1066 and the Norman conquest, the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings both lived in Britain but they spent most of their time fighting each other. The Vikings had control over the North and the East, while the Anglo-Saxons controlled the South and the West. The Vikings first landed at Lindisfarne.

**How were Viking longboats used?**

The Vikings used sailing as the quickest way to get around. They were good at developing ships that were fast and safe. Ships were often used as a sign of wealth and were so important to the Norse people that sometimes they were buried in them.

**How did the legal system work in Viking England?**

There were no prisons to send criminals to, so punishments were designed to be a huge deterrent to those thinking of breaking the law and they were often pretty brutal! Most punishments were carried out in public to make an example of the guilty person and to deter others from committing the same crime.

**What is Danegeld?**

In AD 991 the Vikings were given 4500kg of silver to go home, but they soon returned. Each time there was a fresh attack they were paid again. The Vikings learnt that if they kept raiding Britain they would keep getting paid. By 1012, 22 000kg of silver was given to the Vikings in Denegeld. King Ethelred II was heavily criticised for his ineffective strategy.

**What happened in 1066?**

**The Battle of Hastings is one of the most famous and important battles in English history.** It was fought between William of Normandy and his army from France (called the Normans), and King Harold II and his English army. The English were known as the Anglo-Saxons back then. William won and Harold lost - legend has it he died from an arrow in the eye!

### The key skills we want pupils to use during this topic:

Compare and contrast aspects of Viking and modern day everyday life

Evaluate and assess the impact and significance made by Vikings and be able to explain how their actions have shaped British history.

### Key vocabulary

**Invalidate**

An armed force enters a country or region in order to occupy it

**Conquer**

To take control by military force.

**Raider**

To steal and cause damage and harm to others

**Trader**

A person who buys and sells goods, currency or shares

**Longboat**

A large boat which would be launched from a sailing ship

**Danelaw**

The area of England ruled by the Vikings

**Lindisfarne**

One of the first landing sites of the Vikings

### Final Written Outcome

Diary of a Viking invader

**Alternative Outcome:**

Video diary

