

Facts about Vikings

Invasions

The Vikings wanted new land because the places where they came from in Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden and Denmark). It was hard to grow crops, which meant there was a food shortage as the population got bigger. Britain and Europe had plenty of good farmland, so the Vikings tried to claim some of that land for themselves. 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.

Religion

The Vikings believed in many different gods and they thought making sacrifices to the gods kept them all happy. They also told stories about the gods, called Norse mythology. Each god was in charge of something different such as war, travel or home.

Clothes

Mostly made from wool or linen. They used dyes made from plants and minerals to make red, green, brown, yellow and blue, so their clothes were very colourful.

Settlement

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.

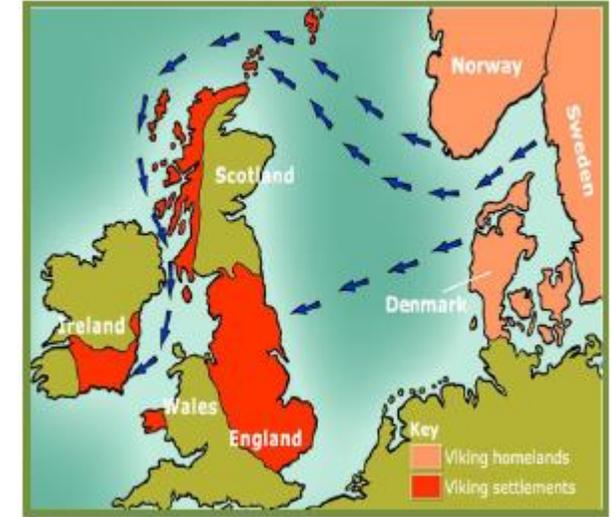


Vikings

Key Vocabulary

Monastery	Monastery A building where people worship and devote time to God. Missionary
Missionary	People sent to promote religions, especially Christianity
Settlement	A place where people have come to live and built homes.
Raid	A rapid, surprise attack on an enemy.
Lindisfarne	Lindisfarne, also known as a Holy Island, was one of the first landing sites for Vikings
Danelaw	A historical name given to parts of the country (in northern and eastern England) governed by The Danes.
Treaty	A formal written agreement between states.
Saga	Sagas were stories told and retold down the ages by Norse peoples.
Longhouses	Vikings lived in longhouses. They were often constructed from locally sourced materials, had no windows or chimneys and were often shared with animals.
Loot	To take private property. The Vikings looted monasteries to steal their valuables.
Valhalla	Brave warriors were believed to go to Valhalla in the afterlife - a great hall, feasting alongside Odin.

Where they came from!



Viking Longboat



Viking Longhouse

700	789	793	865	866	876	886	1014	1066
The Viking Age begins	First recorded Viking attack	Viking raid on Lindisfarne	Viking army from Denmark invades England	Danes capture York (Jorvik)	Vikings from Denmark, Sweden and Norway settle permanently in England	King Alfred defeats the Vikings / Allows them to settle in East England	King Canute (Cnut) of Denmark King of England	Battle of Hastings / William I King of England