



Y5 Knowledge Organiser – Vikings

In Year 5, students will explore the fascinating history of the Vikings. They will learn about Viking culture, beliefs, and daily life. They will investigate the Viking's way of travel and the routes they took on their journeys. Students will learn about famous Viking warriors, their weapons, and battle tactics. They will also learn about Viking settlements in England and the impact they had on the country. Students will explore Viking myths and legends, including the story of Ragnarok. They will examine Viking trade and commerce, as well as Viking art and craftsmanship. Students will develop their critical thinking skills by evaluating sources of information and considering different viewpoints on Viking history.

Key information

Key Figures:

King Alfred the Great (AD 849-899): Alfred did a lot of great things for England including defeating the Vikings in several battles and keeping part of England under Anglo-Saxon rule. A

thelstan (AD 927 -939) – First King to unite English kingdoms

Guthrum (AD 879-890) – King of the Vikings in Danelaw at the time of the treaty with the Saxons King

Canute (AD 995-1035): Viking King of England, Denmark and Norway. Edward the Confessor (AD 1042-1055)

– penultimate Saxon King of England (before Harold II who lost at Hastings)

William the Conqueror (AD 1028-1087): Became King of England in 1066 after winning in the Battle of Hastings.



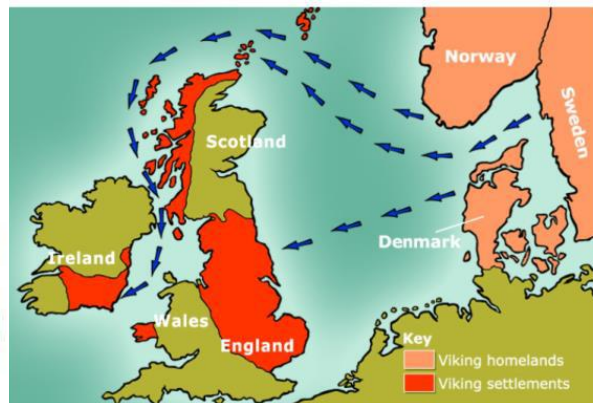
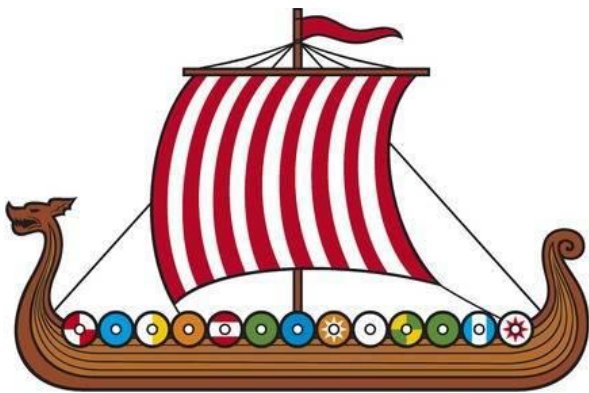
Norway



Sweden



Denmark



The map shows how Vikings came to the British Isles

Background Information

Viking is a Verb, Not a Noun When the quiet monks on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne saw the dragon ships approaching, they didn't know what was coming. They were fully unprepared for the ferocity of the warriors, armed with sword, axe and shield. The attack and plunder of Lindisfarne, a rich and unprotected monastery, echoed throughout the next 300 years of European history. The Viking Age had begun. Historians use the term the Viking Age to describe the turbulent expansion of the Scandinavian people into Europe and Russia.

Beginning in A.D. 793 with the Lindisfarne raid, Norwegians, Swedes and Danes set to raiding. Any unprotected community was a target. Vikings attacked places all along the coasts of Scotland, England, Ireland, France, Italy and inland Russia. They terrorized, plundered, traded, explored and finally settled and farmed all over the lands they encountered. .

Key Vocabulary

Anglo-Saxons: The main group of people living in Britain when the Vikings invaded.

Danelaw: The area in Britain that the Danish Vikings ruled over.

Longship: A Viking ship used for fighting and carrying out raids.

Monastery: A place where people who have dedicated their lives to religion, such as monks or nuns live.

Pagan: A person who believes in many gods.

Rune: A letter from the alphabet used by Vikings.

Chieftain: The leader of a village or small group of people

Danelaw: The area of England ruled by the Vikings

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

Longship: A Viking ship with a sail and oars, also called a dragon-ship

Monastery: The building where monks live

Pagan: A person who believed in many gods

Runes: The name given to the Viking alphabet

Thatched: A roof covered in straw

Trader: A person who sells goods

Lesson 1	Start of unit	End of unit	Lesson 2	Start of unit	End of unit	Lesson 3	Start of unit	End of unit
Can children explain how the Anglo-Saxons came to Britain?			Do children know when the Vikings first invaded Britain?			Do children know that the Vikings settled in Britain after the first raids in the 8th century?		
Do children know why this period is often referred to as the Dark Ages?			Can children offer reasons for why the Vikings invaded?			Can children use a variety of sources to gather information?		
Can children give an overview of what life was like in the 8th century before the Viking invasions?			Can children recognise and describe the different perspectives of the Viking invasions?			Can children describe how the Vikings gained control of the northeast of England?		

Lesson 4	Start of unit	End of unit	Lesson 5	Start of unit	End of unit	Lesson 6	Start of unit	End of unit
Can children describe the role King Alfred played in making England a unified country?			Can children describe what life was like for Vikings in Britain?			Do children know that by 1016, England was a unified country under the control of a single king?		
Can children suggest reasons why he was dubbed 'Great'?			Can children identify differences between Viking and Anglo-Saxon life?			Can children name the key historical figures and describe their role in events?		
Can children use a variety of sources of information to find out the life of King Alfred?			Can children identify similarities between Viking and Anglo-Saxon life?			Can children discuss causes and effects of historical events?		