

Core Knowledge

- The Roman Empire ended in AD410 when the Romans withdrew from Britain.
- The Angles, Saxons and Franks, who would have been considered barbarians by the Romans, had begun to invade Britain as the Roman Empire was dwindling. They were now able to settle in England (which was once known as Angle Land) and became Anglo-Saxons.
- The kings of Anglo-Saxon England ruled their own kingdoms and controlled their own armies. This was also true of the Scots in Scotland and Welsh Princedoms.
- Many feel the Viking period began in Britain when they raided the island of Lindisfarne in 793AD. When the Vikings landed in Britain it was being ruled by Anglo-Saxon kings and Scots.
- Vikings were mostly from Denmark, Norway and Sweden in Scandinavia.
- Vikings often attacked monasteries as the monks could not defend themselves and they contained many riches.
- King Alfred ruled the kingdom of Wessex which resisted Viking invasion at first because he paid the Danes money to stay away from his kingdom. This was known as paying 'Danegeld'.
- In 878AD, King Alfred defeated King Guthrum at the battle of Edington. After this battle, a treaty, stating that the Vikings would rule the North of England under **Danelaw** and King Alfred would rule the South, was agreed.
- The name 'Viking' means 'a pirate raid' in the Old Norse language.
- Vikings used shallow longboats which were very fast and enabled them to launch quick attacks and travel vast distances by sea and river.
- The Viking army was known as the Great Heathen and was led by King Guthrum.
- The Vikings were Pagans who believed in Gods though many converted to Christianity over time in Britain.
- Vikings believed that their chief god Odin lived in Valhalla which was a kind of heaven where warriors who had been brave in battle would go.
- Many people living in Britain today have Viking ancestors.

Key Locations

- **Lindisfarne** (also known as Holy Island), where the Viking's first raided, is a tidal island off the northeast coast of England
- The Vikings landed on main land Britain in **East Anglia** and made their way North raiding and pillaging many coastal areas
- **York** was the main Viking city with around 15,000 inhabitants
- **Mercia** was one of the great seven Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of England, alongside **East Anglia, Essex, Kent, Northumbria, Sussex and Wessex**

Key Vocabulary

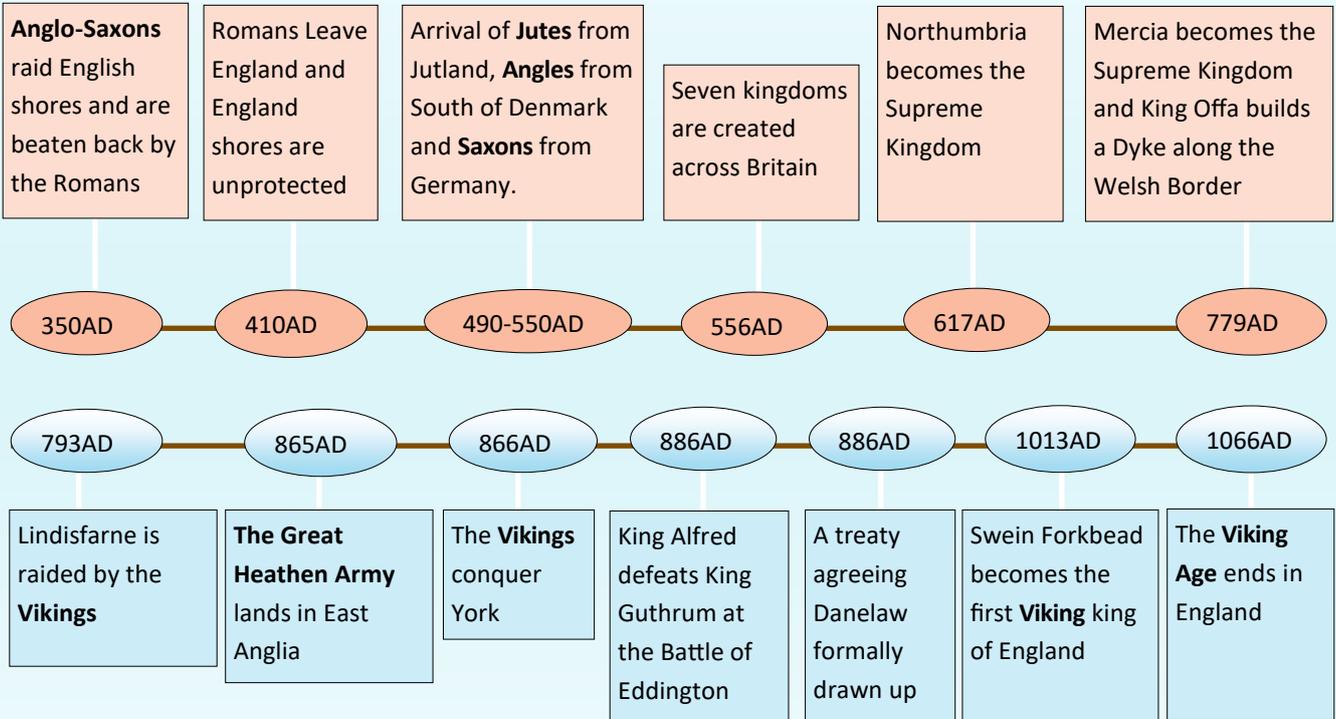
- raid**—a surprise attack to steal valuable goods for wealth or trade
- pillage**—rob a (place) using violence
- settlement**—a place where people stay to live together creating a community
- Danelaw**—a set of laws established by the Danish people (Vikings) in the North of England
- danegeld**—money paid to keep Danish people from raiding a kingdom
- saga**—story or poem from the Viking era often about their gods

Vicious Vikings

Year 4

Timeline of key events

Anglo-Saxons



Vikings

Anglo Saxon Kingdoms

