

History Core Knowledge

- The Roman Empire ended in AD410 when the Romans withdrew from Britain.
- The Angles and Saxons , 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 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 from the Vikings .
- In 886AD, King Alfred defeated King Guthrum at the battle of Eddington. 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 longships which were very fast and enabled them to launch quick attacks and travel vast distances by sea and river.



A model of a Viking longship



An artist's idea of what Odin might have looked like

- The Viking army was known as the Great Heathen and was led by King Guthrum.
- Vikings were fierce warriors who carried wooden shields and wore leather helmets.
- Viking children were trained in how to use weapons like axes and swords to be ready to defend their community.
- The Vikings were Pagans who believed in Gods, like Odin, though many converted to Christianity over time in Britain.
- Many people living in Britain today have Viking ancestors.

Geography Core Knowledge

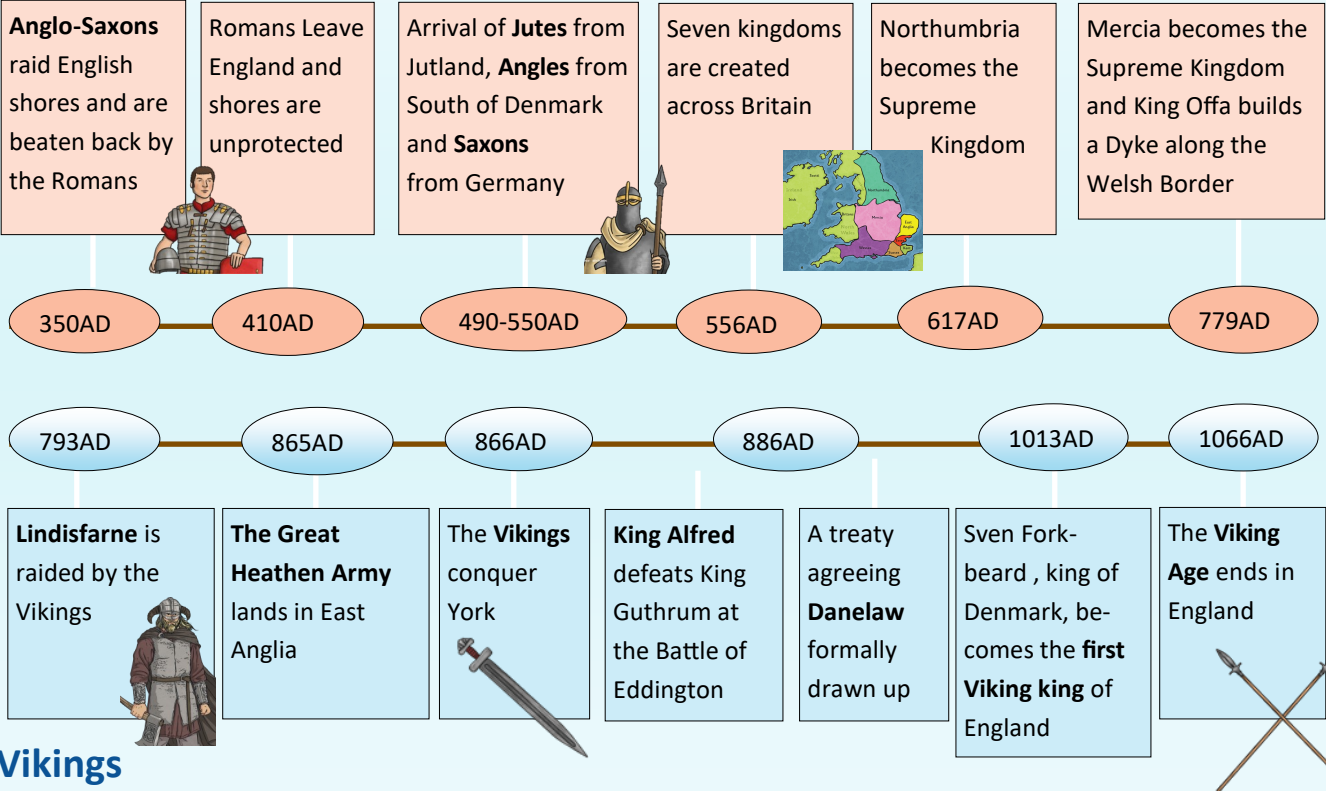
- Vikings were mostly from Denmark, Norway and Sweden in Scandinavia in the continent of Europe.
- A settlement is a village town or a city where people live.
- There are many historical towns and cities in the UK created by early settlers. Modern towns or cities have been built recently to accommodate the growing population or replace houses that have been damaged.
- Viking often settled close to the coast as they arrived by sea in longboats.
- Scandinavia , in Northern Europe, has a cold climate as it is far from the Equator and close to the Arctic circle. Its location also affects the duration of daylight between seasons (long days in summer, long nights in winter).

Vicious Vikings?

Year 4

Timeline of key events

Anglo-Saxons



Vikings

Anglo Saxon Kingdoms



Invited Immigrants

Immigrant—a person who comes to live permanently in another country

- The people we call **Anglo-Saxons** were immigrants from northern Germany and southern Scandinavia. Bede, a monk from Northumbria writing some centuries later, says that they were from some of the most powerful and warlike tribes in Germany.
- Bede names three of these tribes: the **Angles**, **Saxons** and **Jutes**. There were probably many other peoples who set out for Britain in the early fifth century, however. Batavians, Franks and Frisians are known to have made the sea crossing to the stricken province of 'Britannia'.
- The collapse of the Roman empire has been said to be one of the greatest catastrophes in history. Britain, or 'Britannia', had never been entirely overruled by the Romans. In the far north – Caledonia (modern Scotland) – there were tribes who defied the Romans, especially the Picts. The Romans built a great barrier, Hadrian's Wall, to keep them out of the civilised and prosperous part of Britain.
- 'England' as a country did not come into existence for hundreds of years after the Anglo-Saxons arrived. Instead, seven major Anglo-Saxon kingdoms were carved out of the conquered areas: Northumbria, East Anglia, Essex, Sussex, Kent, Wessex and Mercia. These kingdoms were fiercely independent, and although they shared similar languages and pagan religions they were absolutely loyal to their own kings and very competitive, especially in their favourite pastime – war.
- The Anglo-Saxons and Vikings became neighbours in Britain, but they didn't always get along peacefully.

Key Vocabulary

raid—a surprise attack to steal valuable goods for wealth or trade



pillage—rob somewhere 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 and also became known as an area of Britain ruled by the Vikings



saga—story or poem from the Viking era, often about their gods



Longship—(longboat) a long narrow wooden boat used by the Vikings



Key Locations

- Lindisfarne** (also known as Holy Island), where the Vikings 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**

