

Year 4 History – Vikings

Vocabulary and Knowledge

Danelaw	An area of England that was ruled by the Vikings and followed Vikings laws	
longhouse	A large wooden house where Viking families lived.	
longship	A fast, narrow Viking boat used for travelling, trading and attacking.	
monastery	A place where monks live, work and worship.	
raid	A surprise attack to steal goods or valuables.	
raiders	People who carry out raids and attack places to steal things.	
pillage	To steal money, food or valuable things during or after an attack.	
Viking	A person from Scandinavia who lived around 800-1100AD.	

Around 790 CE (AD) Romans withdrew from England leaving only Anglo-Saxons protecting the country. Knowing this, a group of people from Scandinavia, called the Vikings, decided to invade Britain. Some Vikings came to settle in Britain peacefully. Scandinavia is made up of Denmark, Norway and Sweden. In their homelands. Vikings were farmers, fishermen, seafarers and traders. Vikings used longships to travel. They were powered by wind and oars. The journey from Scandinavia was 500-600 miles and would have taken three to six days. Vikings settled in Britain from 793AD to approximately 1066AD. The first Viking raid in England was 793 CE. Vikings raided the monastery of Lindisfarne. During this raid, the Vikings killed some of

the monks, made some of the monks slaves, stole jewels and money and destroyed the monastery.

Lindisfarne was only the start of the Viking raids, a year after the infamous monastery attack, the Vikings invaded Scotland and Ireland. Almost 70 years later, the Great Army was sent from Denmark to take over more of Britain.

In 871AD, Alfred the Great became king of Wessex (main part of England not under Viking rule)

878AD Vikings had settled in England permanently.

886AD King Alfred the Great agrees to a treaty with the Vikings. Alfred kept the west and the Vikings were given the east, which was later known as Danelaw. The treaty created peace amongst the Vikings and the Anglo-Saxons.

Vikings all spoke Norse language.

They lived in longhouses which were built from wood with grass/straw or wood put on the roof to keep the heat in. The houses were held together using mottle and daub.

Viking longhouses were one big room. In the middle of the room there was an open fire to provide light and heat.

Animals would often be kept inside the longhouse, especially in winter months.

Viking society was male dominated. Males would be involved in hunting, fighting, trading and farming.

Females were responsible for the cooking, caring for the home and raising children.

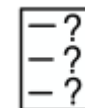
Viking females would often marry between the ages 12 and 15, this marriage would be arranged by the family.

Vikings had a polytheistic belief so they believed in many gods. Each god represented different aspects of life.

Vikings believed when they died, they would go to Valhalla (Heaven) or Hell.

When a Viking dies, they were buried with all their possessions that were important to them swords, axes, fine clothing, gold and jewellery. It was believed they would need these in the afterlife.

Quizzing		Quiz at home
Ask your partner the questions below. Can they find the correct answer on the right-hand side?		Ask your adult to look at the KO.
Why did the Vikings decide to invade Britain?	Denmark, Norway and Sweden	Quiz them using the vocabulary and knowledge section or the quiz questions. • Can they beat your score? • Can they score more than 5? 10? • Compete with your adult in the elimination quiz. Take it in turn to ask each other questions. The first person to get a question wrong is out.
Which countries make up Scandinavia?	Alfred the Great	
What happened during the first Viking raid?	One large room with an open fire	
Who became king of Wessex in 871AD?	Danelaw	
What was the name given to the eastern part of England after the treaty?	They would need these items in the afterlife	
What was a Viking longhouse like?	The Romans had left, leaving only Anglo-Saxons protecting it.	
Why were Vikings buried with their possessions?	The Vikings attacked the monastery and stole valuables.	
BIG Questions		Beat Your Adult
1. Why did the Vikings come to Britain? 2. How did the Vikings change life in Britain? 3. Did the Vikings deserve their reputation as ruthless raiders?		Your teacher can give 10 facts in 1 minute about this topic. How many can you give to your partner? 
Word scramble	Tasks	Creative Task
Unscramble the key vocabulary from this topic below. You can create your own at the bottom	1. Use a blank copy of the KO to fill in the missing information. 2. Create a revision bookmark that includes summaries of the information on the knowledge organiser.	1. Build your own longhouse. Include a thatched roof, one large room, an open fire and a space for animals in winter. Label the different parts. 2. Design a poster showing a Viking longship sailing from Scandinavia to Britain. Include a map, information about the length of the journey, pictures and labels. 3. Design a Viking shield using colours, symbols and patterns that represent them.
WAALNED		
OEGNSLOHU		
HSGPLNIO		
EMTYNROAS		
ADRI		
DSARREI		
AGDIPLEL		
IKVGIN		



Historical Enquiry

Look at each of these artefacts – what do you think they are and what do you think they were used for?

Artefact



What do you think it is?

What do you think it was used for?

What question could you ask to find out more information about the object?