

Were the Vikings raiders, traders or settlers?

Key Dates

Dates are approximate	
793 AD	The Vikings attack from Norway. They attacked Lindisfarne in Northumbria.
866 AD	The Vikings capture the city of York.
871 AD	Alfred the Great becomes King of Wessex, driving the Vikings away from the south, but they stay in the north and the east.
878 AD	The Vikings had permanently settled in England, overran Wessex and forced King Alfred into hiding.
886 AD	King Alfred agrees to a treaty with the Vikings. Alfred keeps the west and the Vikings are given the east, which is later known as 'Danelaw'.
900 AD	The Vikings rule over Scotland.
954 AD	The last Viking king of Jorvik (York), Eric Bloodaxe is forced out of York.
1013 AD	King Sven of Denmark and his son Cnut claim the throne in Danelaw and the Saxon king (Ethelred) flees abroad. A year later Cnut becomes king of England.
1042 AD	Edward becomes King and is known as Edward the Confessor.
1066 AD	The last Anglo-Saxon King, King Harold is defeated by William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings. Norman Britain begins.

Key Events, Facts and People

The Vikings were invaders and settlers who came from Scandinavian countries of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, they came by boat. They were incredibly talented shipbuilders and created dragon-headed longboats. These Norsemen, as they were known, began raiding as a means to survive as their populations expanded.

The Vikings grew, hunted, or caught everything they ate. In Britain, vegetables that could be grown included leeks, turnips, and carrots. The Vikings kept animals such as chickens, sheep, and pigs. The Vikings also ate fish, such as herring and cod, and cured meat like bacon.



Key Vocabulary

balanced	Considering all views in a fair way.
bias	Allowing personal opinions to influence a viewpoint
cause	Something that makes an event happen.
consequence	The result of an event.
Danelaw	The northern, central, and eastern regions of England controlled by the Vikings.
longboat	A long, narrow Viking boat powered by oars or sail.
perspective	The way a person thinks about something.

Were the Vikings raiders, traders or settlers?

Key Questions

- Who were the Vikings and why did they come to Britain?
- What do we know about the Vikings?
- How did the Vikings travel?
- Were the Vikings raiders or traders?
- What were the consequences of the Anglo-Saxon and Vikings struggle for Britain?
- What was Viking life in Britain like?

Unit Outcomes

- ✓ Identify the different reasons for migration to Britain.
- ✓ Sequence events according to their significance for groups of people.
- ✓ Explain where the Vikings came from and why they came to Britain.
- ✓ Explain how sources can be biased.
- ✓ Find evidence within a source to support their reasoning.
- ✓ Describe the parts of a longboat.
- ✓ Explain whether the Vikings were traders or raiders and providing supporting evidence.
- ✓ Identify important events in the Anglo-Saxon and Viking struggle for Britain.
- ✓ Make observations and deductions about artefacts.

The Vikings gave us

The Vikings brought their own distinct laws, place names, customs, measurements, skilled crafts and farming techniques to the Danelaw.

One of the most important of all Viking achievements was their state-of-the-art shipbuilding technology, which allowed them to travel greater distances than anyone before them.

Vikings also developed our English language. In the past, Vikings spoke old English and named places in Britain. Places such as Grimsby, Thornby and Derby are originated from old English. The suffix -by translates from Scandinavian to English as 'village' or 'homestead'.

Links to other Subjects

Art - accurately sketch a Viking dragon head or a Viking longship.

Art - make a sculpture of a longship.

Music - listen and appraise music from the Viking era.

English - writing a persuasive letter to join the Viking Army.

English - write a newspaper report about the invasion of Lindisfarne.

English - Write an information text about the Battle of Hastings.

Reading - Attack of the Vikings Tony Bradman, Viking Invaders and Settlers How to Train your Dragon

