

## The Vikings

The Vikings arrived in Britain from Scandinavia in 787 AD in boats called longships (also known as dragon ships). They raided places such as monasteries and pillaged expensive items to trade. They were looking for valuable goods like gold and jewels, imported foods and other useful materials.

## The Anglo Saxons

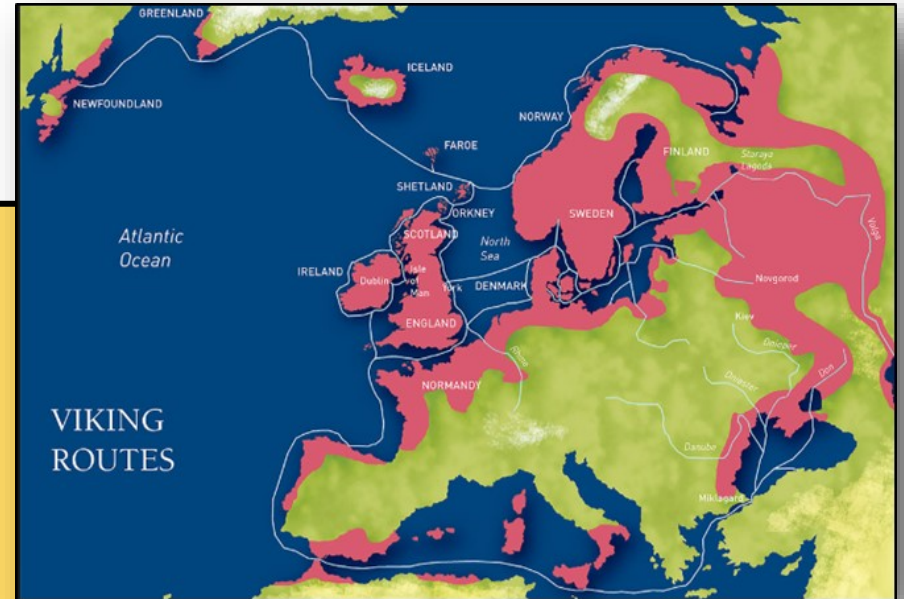
After the last Roman soldiers left Britain in 410AD, new people came in ships across the North Sea– the Anglo Saxons. They were a mix of tribes from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. The three biggest were the Angles, the Saxons and Jutes. Some Anglo-Saxons came to fight (after the Romans left, the Britons were easy to defeat) whilst others came to farm peacefully.

## Anglo Saxons & Vikings

### Knowledge Organiser

#### Map of Viking Routes

The Vikings came from the Scandinavian countries of Norway, Sweden and Denmark. The time between 787AD and 1050AD is known as the time of the Vikings. Initially, they settled in northern Scotland and eastern England, also establishing the city of Dublin in Ireland. Around 1000AD, some Vikings settled in North America, but did not stay long. They also travelled to southern Spain and Russia, and traded as far as Turkey.



### Vikings V Anglo Saxons

The first major Viking raid recorded was around **787AD**, at the monastery of Lindisfarne. This raid was the start of a fierce struggle between the Anglo Saxons and the Vikings.

**In 865AD**, an army of Vikings sailed across the North Sea. This time they wanted to conquer land, rather than just raid it.

Over several years the army battled through northern England, taking control of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Northumbria, East Anglia and most of Mercia.

**By 874 AD**, almost all the kingdoms had fallen to the Vikings. All except for Wessex, which was ruled by an Anglo Saxon king, Alfred the Great. He beat the Viking army but wasn't able to drive the Vikings out of Britain.



The area of the UK controlled by the Vikings was named '**Danelaw**'. Over the years, this area grew and shrunk in size, as the Vikings battled with the Anglo Saxons for settlements. At its height, under King Cnut between 1016 and 1035 it covered almost all of England.

#### 787-789 AD

The Vikings begin their attacks on Britain.

#### 866 AD

Danish Vikings establish a kingdom in York, England.

#### 878-886

King Alfred divides England under the Danelaw Act, granting Vikings north and east England

#### 900-911 AD

The Vikings raid the Mediterranean and find Normandy, France.

#### 981 AD

Eric the Red discovers Greenland.

#### 1000AD

Leif Erikson explores the coast of North America.

#### 1013 AD

The Danes conquer England. From 1028, Cnut rules.

#### 1066 AD

The Vikings are defeated at Stamford Bridge.

#### 1066 AD

End of the Viking age. William of Normandy wins the Battle of Hastings.

# Key Vocabulary

<b>Colonise</b>	To establish a settlement and begin to rule.
<b>Danelaw</b>	An area of Northern and Eastern England under Viking rule
<b>Explore</b>	To search a place and discover things about it.
<b>Invade</b>	To enter and occupy land.
<b>Jarls</b>	A King, Earl or Ruler in Scandinavia.
<b>Longhouse</b>	Single-storey Viking home usually made of wood, stone, earth or turf.
<b>Longship</b>	A long, wooden narrow boat used by the Vikings.
<b>Migration</b>	A long journey to a new home.
<b>Pagans</b>	A religion where many gods and goddesses are worshipped.
<b>Pillaged</b>	To violently steal something.
<b>Raid</b>	A surprise attack.

## Trade

Trade has been an important part of civilisations for many centuries; the Viking were no different. The Vikings traded all over Europe and as far east as Central Asia. They even made long journeys overland through Russia, reaching as far south as

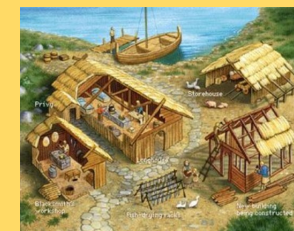
**Constantinople** (in modern day Turkey).

Bought	Sold	Vikings would trade products they could source or make from their own settlements with products which they couldn't produce themselves. They carried a set of folding scales which they used to weigh coins to make sure they got a fair deal.
Silver	Honey	
Silk	Tin	
Spices	Wheat	
Wine	Wool	
Jewellery	Wood	
Glass	Iron	
Pottery	fur	

## Settlements

Settlements are where people live and work. There are many different types of settlements and modern day settlements can look very different to those throughout history. When choosing somewhere to settle, early settlers will have thought about these things:

- Food
- Water
- Transportation
- Shelter
- Raw materials



Many Vikings only began searching for new homes because the land in Norway, Sweden and Denmark wasn't very good for growing crops or rearing animals. Norway was very hilly, Sweden was covered in forests and Denmark has a lot of sandy soil. When they came to Britain, they found areas where they could grow crops and rear animals much better.

## Viking Life

**Houses:** Walls made of stone or wood. A Straw roof. Wattle and daub (sticks and mud) for the inside of the walls. Usually one large room for whole family to live and sleep in.

**Jewellery:** worn to show off how rich a person was.

**Pagans:** Vikings arrived as pagans but eventually converted to Christianity.

**Sagas:** Vikings used rhyme to tell stories about adventures and battles against monsters.

### Stone Age

15000 BC to 3,000BC

### Ancient Egypt

3100 BC to 30BC

### Ancient Greece

776BC to 146BC

### Romans

AD 43 to AD 410

### Anglo Saxons

AD 410 to AD 1066

### Vikings

AD 793 to AD 1066

### Victorians

AD 1837 to AD 1901

### World Wars

AD 1914 to 1918  
1939 to 1945