

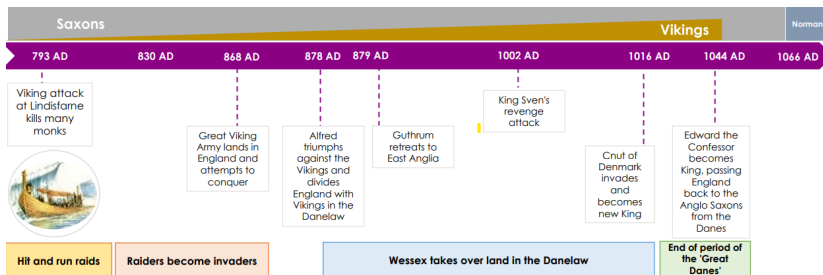


Y5 Thinking like a Historian

Vikings

Key Knowledge:

1. The word Viking means raider (and they certainly did a lot of that!) but they were also traders and settlers, especially later in the period .
2. They attacked England from Scandinavia carrying out raids on monasteries which is why the monks criticised them so much.
3. For many years They fought hard against the Saxons for control of England but were stopped by Alfred. They then settled in the East with some becoming kings of England at the end of the Saxon period
4. They were highly skilled shipbuilders, taking them vast distances across dangerous seas
5. They did not worship a single god but made offerings to a large number such as Odin (Wednesday named after him) Thor



Key vocabulary

Danegeld protection money paid by Saxons to bribe Vikings not to attack their lands

Danelaw large part of Eastern England where the Danes settled in the late 9th century with their own laws and culture

Heathen person who does not accept a religion that says there is only one god

Hoard hidden collection of treasure

Pagan person who believes in more than one god

Runes Viking writing

Saga long story about Viking heroes, spoken at first but later written down

Learning Questions

What image do we have of the Vikings?

Why have the Vikings gained such a bad reputation?

How did the Vikings try to take over the country and how close did they get?

How have recent excavations changed our view of the Vikings?

What can we learn about Viking settlement from a study of place-name endings?

Raiders or settlers:
how should we remember the Vikings?

What else do you know?