



What should I already know?

- After the Roman left, Britain was vulnerable and was invaded by the Anglo-Saxons. The land they settled in was 'Angle-land', or England.
- Many Anglo-Saxons came peacefully, to find land to farm and over time many were converted to Christianity.
- Human and physical geographical features of the UK, including the resources available in Britain.
- The chronology of British history.

Map of Viking Homelands and Settlements

Key

- Viking Settlements
- Viking Homelands



Key Figures

- King Alfred the Great** (AD 849-899): Alfred did a lot of great things for England including defeating the Vikings in several battles and keeping part of England under Anglo-Saxon rule.
- Athelstan** (AD 927-939) – First King to unite English kingdoms
- Guthrum** (AD 879-890) – King of the Vikings in Danelaw at the time of the treaty with the Saxons.
- King Canute** (AD 995-1035): Viking King of England, Denmark and Norway.
- Edward the Confessor** (AD 1042-1066) – penultimate Saxon King of England (before Harold II who lost at Hastings)
- William the Conqueror** (AD 1066-1087): Became King of England in 1066 after winning in the Battle of Hastings.

Technical vocabulary

chieftain	The leader of a village or small group of people
danegeld	Tax raised to pay the Danes (Vikings) for them to go home but they kept returning
danelaw	The area in Britain that the Danish Vikings ruled over
monastery	A building or buildings occupied by a community of monks living under religious vows.
norsemens	The name given to Viking raiders by the Anglo-Saxons
pagans	A religion where many gods and goddesses are worshipped
pillaged	To violently steal something
raid	A surprise attack
Scandinavia	Group of countries in northern Europe that includes Denmark, Norway and Sweden.
shield wall	protective wall formed by interlocking the shields of foot soldiers
Valhalla	Viking warriors believed that when they died in battle, they went to Valhalla. This is where the king of the gods lived, named Odin.

Viking Invaders

- The Vikings came from the modern Scandinavian countries of Denmark, Norway and Sweden. They travelled in boats called longships and first arrived in Britain around AD 787. The Vikings 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 Vikings also wanted to claim land and tried to take over much of Britain. They invaded and settled in Scotland before heading south to places such as York. By AD 878 the Vikings had settled permanently in Britain.

Viking Life and beliefs

- Viking laws were not written down but passed on by word of mouth. Punishments could include fines, being semi-outlawed, fighting to the death, or revenge on someone who has killed a family member.
- The Vikings were very superstitious people. They believed that they shared their world with a whole range of gods and mystical creatures. The best known Viking gods are Odin, Thor, and Freya.
- Because death was not seen as the complete end of a person's life, the Vikings went to great lengths to prepare their dead for the afterlife – wherever they ended up.
- Vikings were buried with all the things that were important to Vikings: their swords and axes; fine clothes; gold and jewellery.

AD 793



The Vikings attack the island of Lindisfarne.

AD 866



The Vikings capture the city of York.

AD 871



Alfred the Great becomes the King of Wessex.

AD 878



They settle permanently in England.

AD 886



King Alfred agrees to a treaty with the Vikings.

AD 900



The Vikings rule the North of Scotland.

AD 954



The last Viking king of Jorvik is forced out of York.

AD 1013



King Sven of Denmark and his son Cnut sail up the rivers Humber and Trent to claim the throne.

AD 1042



Edward the Confessor is invited to return from Normandy to become the King of England.

AD 1066



King Harold is defeated in the Battle of Hastings.

