

Scott Primary School—History Knowledge Organiser



Topic: Vikings

Year 5—Autumn 1



Key Vocabulary

Anglo-Saxons	The main group of people living in Britain when Vikings invaded
Danelaw	The area in Britain that Danish Kings
Longship	A Viking ship used for fighting and carrying out raids
Pagan	A person who believes in many gods
Rune	A letter from the alphabet used by Vikings
Chieftain	The leader of a small village or group of people
Exile	To be sent away
Invalidate	To enter and occupy land
Raid	A surprise attack.
Wergild	A payment used to settle disputes between a criminal and the victim or their family.
Outlawed	Having all property taken away and no longer being able to live in the community.

Important Facts

The Vikings came from the modern Scandinavian countries of Denmark, Norway and Sweden. The Viking age began in AD 700 and ended in AD 1100. They travelled in boats called longships and first arrived in Britain around AD 787. The first invasion occurred in Lindisfarne in AD 793. 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. They were well travelled and experienced traders. 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 (Jorvik). By AD 878 the Vikings had settled permanently in Britain. Most of our accounts of the Vikings is from documents written during (or written later) about the initial raids and not the later settlement period. Archaeological finds has been important in changing our views of the Vikings and shown them as settlers and rulers e.g those found at Jorvik. The Vikings have left a lasting legacy in part of our language as shown in the Viking derived place names in Britain.



Timeline

Previous Knowledge

The kings of Anglo-Saxon Britain each ruled their own kingdom. When the Anglo-Saxons first settled in Britain, there were seven kingdoms, but by AD 878 there was just one kingdom left (Wessex) as the others had been overrun by the Vikings. Many Anglo-Saxon kings tried to resist the Vikings and fought hard to keep control of their land. King Alfred the Great was the best known Anglo-Saxon king and the first to defeat the Vikings in battle.

