

Subject :
History*What did the Vikings use their Longships for?*Year
5/6**Background understanding**

The period is considered to have begun with the raiding of Lindisfarne in 793. Vikings were largely from Denmark, Norway and Sweden and it is not known for certain why they began to raid other lands and settle in places such as England. Within a century Vikings had taken over large parts of the land in northern England, although failed to over-rule the large kingdom of Wessex. By 884, after years of battles, a treaty was agreed that left Vikings ruling over 'Danelaw' in the north of England. The Vikings arrived in longships which were designed for raiding and quick getaways. They also travelled far distances to trade. It is thought they were the first Europeans to discover North America.

When: (timeline)

AD 793	Viking raids on Lindisfarne
AD 865	Great Heathen Army invade
AD 878	Battle of Edington- King Alfred defeated the Vikings. Britain was divided into the lands ruled by the Vikings and those ruled by the Saxons
AD 927	Athelstan became the first King of all of England
AD 954	Eric Bloodaxe, the Viking ruler of York, was killed Saxon king, Eadred took control
AD 1001	Vikings landed in America and established a settlement
AD 1016	King Cnut of Denmark became King of England
AD 1066	Edward the Confessor died, Harold became King and lost to the Normans at the battle of Hastings

What: (key vocab)

Anglo Saxon	The main group of people living in Britain when the Vikings invaded
The Anglo Saxon Chronicles	a collection of historical records about the Anglo Saxons, mostly written in the 9th century
Christianity	The religion following the teachings of Jesus Christ
Danelaw	The area in Britain that the Danish Vikings ruled over
Invaders	People who enter another country in order to take it over
Jorvik	The Viking name for York
knarr	A Viking ship used for long voyages and trading
knorr	The Viking longship used for fighting and carrying out raids
Longhouse	A long rectangular building
Monastery	The building where monks (religious men) live
pagan	a person who practices a religion that worships many gods
Plunder	Take loot during a raid, often causing damage at the same time
Raid	A surprise attack.
Settlers	People who move to a new place from another country to live
Trade	Sell items for money, or swap them for other items.
Valhalla	Viking heaven

Where: (significant places)

Scandinavia		The three kingdoms of Denmark, Sweden and Norway where the Vikings mostly came from.
York		The Viking capital of Danelaw (Viking England).
Lindisfarne		Also known as Holy Island. Off the north east coast of England
Newfoundland		The Vikings landed here in Canada and built a settlement

Who: (famous people)

King Alfred		King of Wessex. Defeated the Vikings and made a treaty with the Viking leader Guthrum
King Athelstan		The first king of all England, and Alfred the Great's grandson. He took York from the Danes (Vikings)
King Cnut		He was a Christian and a strong ruler. England was part of his Viking empire, along with Denmark and Norway.
Leif Erikson		Leif Erikson, Icelandic explorer, was the first known European to have set foot on continental North America.

Historical skills and enquiry

- Identify and explain similarities and differences between ways of life between the Anglo Saxons and the Vikings
- Use a range of sources to find out about the period and understand their difference
- Develop the use of historical terms
- Understand there can be different interpretations of the past
- Develop a chronological understanding, relating knowledge to previous topics
- Explore the theme of ships in the Viking period and question the stereotypical view of Vikings
- Explain the significance of Vikings as traders and explorers