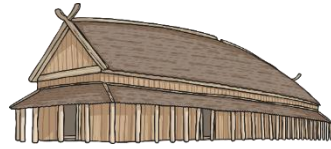


# VIKING LIFE FACTS

Vikings used whatever natural resources were available to make their houses. Typically, this might have been stone or wood for the walls, a thatched (straw) roof and wattle and daub (stick and mud/dung) on the inside walls to keep in heat.



The pagan Vikings believed in life after death, so people were buried with their possessions when they died so that they could use them in the next life.



Fortune tellers were very popular in Viking times. Runes were carved on small stones and the fortune teller would pull these out of a bag one at a time, reading the future as each rune was revealed.

Viking metal workers made objects from a wide range of different materials, from iron to gold.



The Vikings made their own bread by grinding corn into flour and then mixing it with water to make a dough.

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



Jewellery makers engraved abstract animal shapes and patterns of interlace (criss-crossing) on brooches and other items, such as the handles of swords.



The Viking's chief god was called Odin and his wife, the goddess of marriage and fertility, was called Frigg.

Most Vikings wore clothes made from wool or linen. Men wore trousers and tunics which were fastened at the waist with a leather belt. Women wore long sleeved linen dresses under a woollen apron type dress.



Some Vikings drank beer from horns which had been scraped out.



The individual letters of the Viking alphabet were called runes. There were 16 runes in total.



Vikings wrote using characters from an alphabet called the Futhark.

Excavation of Viking graves has shown that Viking women wore two brooches, one on each side of the chest. These were probably used to



The Vikings believed that Odin lived in Valhalla. This was a type of heaven where warriors who had died bravely in battle would go.



Vikings ate from wooden bowls or plates using a spiky knife. Forks were not invented until much later in history.



Viking runes were only made of straight lines as these were much easier to carve into stone and rock.

Woodworkers could carve very intricate patterns into wood. Churches built by the Vikings were often made of wood and featured beautifully carved scenes and interior decor.



Yorvick (York) was an important Viking manufacturing centre and many craftsmen worked on the streets producing a range of items. Coppergate (a place in the city of York) means 'street of the cup-maker'.

When the Vikings first came to Britain they were pagans, which means they worshipped many gods. Over time, many Vikings converted to Christianity.



Leather was commonly used by craftsmen to make a wide range of objects such as purses, saddles for horses and belts.



Vikings often wore cloaks to keep warm in colder weather. These were made from wool or linen and sometimes leather.

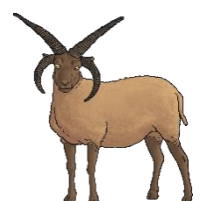
As Vikings converted to Christianity their customs and festivals also changed, merging together the old and new religions e.g. the pagan festival 'Yuletide' became 'Christmas'.



The Vikings made dyes from plants to create different colours for their clothes e.g. red cloth was made by using a plant called madder.



Most Vikings lived on farms where they grew their own crops, such as oats and wheat. They also kept farm animals, such as cows, pigs and sheep which provided milk, wool and



Bone and antler were commonly used by skilled craftsmen to make objects such as combs and handles for knives.





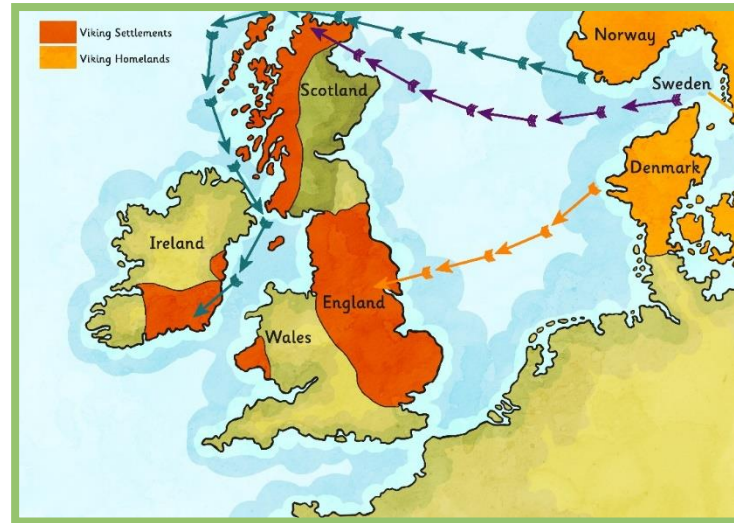
# THE VIKINGS

## WHERE DID THE VIKINGS COME FROM?

The Vikings came from the area of the modern Scandinavian countries (Denmark, Norway and Sweden).

They set out in boats called longships to 'go Viking' (which means to go travelling around looking for resources and land to claim as their own).

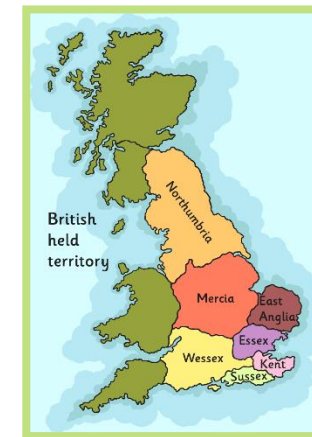
The Vikings first arrived in Britain around AD 787 and in AD 793 they raided and pillaged the monastery at Lindisfarne in Northumbria.



## KINGDOMS

The kings of Anglo-Saxon Britain each ruled their own kingdom and the people in it. They also controlled their own army. Kings constantly fought to control other kingdoms and defend their land.

They were known as warrior-kings. When the Anglo-Saxons first settled in Britain there were seven kingdoms. However, by AD 878 there was only one kingdom left; Wessex, ruled by King Alfred the Great. The other kingdoms had been overrun by the Vikings who established their own kingdoms.



## DANE GELD

After the early Viking raids, Britain enjoyed a period of relative peace, and Viking attacks stopped for some time.

King Edgar, who ruled from AD 959 - 975, was able to concentrate on organising the Christian church and building many new churches and other religious buildings.

At this time, Denmark was becoming a major power led by King Harold Bluetooth. Viking armies were very strong and well organised and the raids were more about getting money which meant that the Danes could become even more powerful.



The Viking warriors were a greatly feared bunch!

In AD 978 a young king called King Ethelred decided to pay the vikings to try and keep the peace. The Anglo-Saxons first called it Gafol, but it was later called Danegeld by the Normans and it means 'paying the Dane'.

In AD 991 the Vikings were given 4500kg of silver to go home, but they soon returned. Each time there was a fresh attack they were paid again. The Vikings learnt that if they kept raiding Britain they would keep getting paid. By 1012, 22 000kg of silver was given to the Vikings in Danegeld.

King Ethelred II was heavily criticised for his ineffective strategy.

## VIKING IN BRITAIN

When the Vikings first came to Britain they raided, took what they could and then went home again.

In AD 850, some Vikings stayed in Britain over winter for the first time on the Island of Thanet, enjoying the milder climate and making use of the rich natural resources. In the later part of the 9<sup>th</sup> century, Vikings started to look for places that they could take for their own and settle more permanently and by AD 866 they had taken the city of York.

The Vikings went on to capture more places and many made Britain their permanent home, integrating with the local people and merging traditions and customs.



Key Vocabulary			
- Longship	A long wooden, narrow boat used by the Vikings	Raid	To suddenly attack a place.
Pillage	To steal goods using violent tactics.	King Ethelred	In AD 978, a young boy called Ethelred became king. His supporters had killed his older brother, Edward II, so that he could rule, even though he was only 7 years old at the time. Ethelred came to be known as 'The Unready' because he was believed to be 'unwise' or 'badly advised'.
King Athlestan	After the death of King Alfred the Great, his son Edward the Elder took the throne. When Edward died, his son Athelstan (King Alfred's grandson) became king. Athelstan is regarded as the first king of all Britain and he is remembered as a great leader	Edward III the Confessor	In AD 1042, Edward III the Confessor became king of England after he was invited to return to Britain from exile in Normandy. He ruled until his death in AD 1066.
Danegeld	Momney paid in Anglo-Saxon England during the reign of King Ethelred to raise funds for protection against the Vikings.	Harald II	Harold became king. He was a strong leader and he fought hard to keep the throne. In 1066, Harold's army marches up to Yorkshire to stop Harald of Norway and his huge army from invading. Harold's men killed Harald and thousands of his Norwegian soldiers in the Battle of Stamford Bridge
King Alfred the Great	Alfred became king in AD 871. He reigned until his death in AD 899.	King Athlestan	After the death of King Alfred the Great, his son Edward the Elder took the throne. When Edward died, his son Athelstan (King Alfred's grandson) became king. Athelstan is regarded as the first king of all Britain and he is remembered as a great leader

## History Timeline

### Stone Age



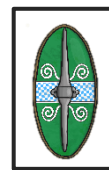
15,000 BC - 2,500 BC

### Bronze Age



3,000 BC - 800 BC

### Iron age



800 BC - AD 43

### Romans in Britain



AD 43 - AD 410

### Anglo-Saxons



AD 449 - AD 1,066

### Golden Age of Piracy



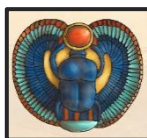
AD 1,650 - AD 1,730

### WW2



AD 1,939 - AD 1,945

### Ancient Egypt



7,500 BC - AD 30

### Ancient Maya



1,100 BC - AD 1,502

### Ancient Greek



776 BC - 146 BC

### Benin



AD 400 - AD 1,500

### Vikings



AD 793 - AD 1,066

### WW1



AD 1,914 - AD 1,918

### Today



AD 2,020