

## Knowledge Organiser for Year 6 History- The Vikings

**Big question: Were the Vikings raiders or traders?**

### National curriculum specification

“the Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor”

- Viking raids and invasion
  - resistance by Alfred the Great and Athelstan, first king of England
  - further Viking invasions and Danegeld
  - Anglo-Saxon laws and justice
  - Edward the Confessor and his death in 1066
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- Ask perceptive questions
  - Understand the process of change (why it needs to happen)
  - Understand how Britain has been influenced by the wider world
  - Know and understand significant achievements and follies of mankind
  - Understand historical concepts: change, cause and consequence
  - Use historical sources to analyse trends, frame historically valid questions and create their own structured accounts; including written narratives and analyses
  - Develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history

### Timeline of key events

AD410	Romans leave Britain
AD 459	Angles and Saxons Invaded England
AD 596	The Pope sent Augustine to spread Christianity
AD 616	King Ethelberht died (first Christian King)
AD 700	The Viking age begins
AD 793	First attacks on Britain by the Danes (including the raid on Lindisfarne)
AD 866	Danes capture York (which the Vikings called Jorvik) and made it their Kingdom.
AD 871	King Alfred, the Great becomes King of Wessex
AD 876	Vikings settle permanently in Britain. Guthrum (Viking King) attacks Wessex
AD 886	King Alfred defeats Vikings at the Battle of Edington but allows them to settle in Eastern England.
AD 1001	Vikings land in America and establish a settlement there.
AD 1014	King Canute of Denmark becomes King of England.
AD 1042	Edward the Confessor becomes King of England and dies in 1066, leaving Harold II to become King.
October AD 1066	Battle of Hastings, William the Conqueror of Normandy, France,

	becomes King of England (marking an end to the Viking Age)
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Key facts/figures	
The Great Heathen Army	An army of Vikings raised to conquer England, took over York.
Wessex	The only Kingdom of England that was not conquered by the Vikings.
The Treaty of Alfred and Guthrum	A peace treaty signed by Alfred the Great (Saxon) and King Guthrum (Viking) allowing both groups to live side by side.
Pagan	The religion that most Vikings followed before arriving in England.
Christianity	The religion most Vikings converted to once they had settled in England.
Danegeld Land Tax	Danegeld – Word for Silver – used to pay off invading Viking raiders, raised by taxing local people

Key places/ people	
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 1042–1055) –	Penultimate Saxon King of England (before Harold II who lost at Hastings)
William the Conqueror (AD 1028–1087)	Became King of England in 1066 after winning in the Battle of Hastings.
Lindisfarne	Island off the coast of Northumberland, North England. The attack by the Vikings marked the beginning of the Viking age in Europe.
Wessex	One of the Kingdoms in the South-West of England, the only kingdom never to be taken over by the Vikings.
Jorvik	Dane name for York – taken by the Vikings in AD 866 and became the centre of Viking Britain, home to 15,000 inhabitants.
Danelaw	The area of Britain that the Vikings ruled over.

Key vocabulary/Tier 3	
Anglo-Saxons	Main group of people living in Britain when the Vikings arrived
Longship	A Viking ship used for fighting and carrying out raids.

Monastery	A place where people who have dedicated their lives to religion, such as monks or nuns live.
Pagan	A person who believes in many gods.
Rune	A letter from the alphabet used by Vikings.
Chieftain	The leader of a village or small group of people
Realm	Space or area
Treaty	Written agreement between to different groups of people
Massacre	A killing of many people at once
Beserker	Terrifying Viking warrior
Valhalla	The Viking belief that they will go to this place after death.
Viking Raid	A surprise attack
Trader	People who buy and sell goods or money.
Invader	People who invade another country or place by force.

#### Key concepts

Before the Vikings arrived, Britain was home to Anglo-Saxons, who had divided England into 7 separate Kingdoms, each with their own rulers.

The Vikings originated from Scandinavia, which is an area now split into Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

The most famous Vikings were the Danes who were from Denmark and established the area of Danelaw in England.

The Norwegian Vikings raided Scotland and founded Iceland.

The Tynwald Parliament in the Isle of Man is the oldest Parliament in the world and was set up by the Celts, but used by the Vikings (not to pass laws but as a way to control the community).

The Vikings raided, traded and settled all along Europe's coasts. The Vikings were feared by all and many churches prayed that they would not face the 'wrath' of the Vikings.

When the Vikings came across a church, settlement or town that was not well defended, they would raid it and claim it as their own.

When the Vikings came across a town or settlement that **was well-defended**, They would set up a trade of money or goods.



