

Vikings

Key Facts

- In 410AD, the Romans left Britain.
- In 556AD, seven kingdoms were created in England.
- Anglo-Saxon people in the south and the midlands came from Northern Germany in the fifth century, but people in the north and east were a mixture of Anglo-Saxon and Vikings who came from Norway, Sweden and Denmark and settled after AD 850.
- In 793AD, there was the first Viking Raid on England.
- The Vikings were invaders and settlers who came from Scandinavia and travelled by longboats.
- The word “Viking” meant “pirate raid” in the



- The Vikings were not just raiders and pirates and did not wear horned helmets. Not all Viking men had beards – these were normally a sign of high status.
- The best source for finding out about the Vikings are their sagas, but they also contain a lot of legends as well as proven facts.
- When fighting, the Vikings used swords more than axes, and they used spears too.
- The most successful Anglo-Saxon king to fight against the Vikings was Alfred.

Timeline of Key Events

401-410AD – The Romans withdraw from Britain: Anglo Saxon migrants begin to settle.

793 AD – The Vikings attack and capture the city of York (Jorvik)

867-878 AD – Series of Viking victories

871 AD – Alfred the Great becomes King of Wessex

939 AD – The Vikings invade England and take back the north.

1066 AD – King Harold is killed in the Battle of Hastings and William I (the Conqueror) crowned King of England

1066 AD – End of the Viking Age

Timeline

800 BC – 43 AD – Iron Age Britain

43 – 410 AD – Britain governed by the Romans

5th – 10th Century – Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms in UK

793AD – The Vikings first invaded Britain at Lindisfarne

1066AD – End of Viking Age

1666AD– The Great Fire of London

Key Vocabulary

Danelaw –The area in Britain ruled by the Vikings.

Invader/s – a person or a group who attacks and enters into another territory.

Territory – an area of land.

Settlers – people who stay in an area and build up a life for themselves there.

Hoard – gather a collection of items (for example, gold) and hide or store it away.

Raid – a rapid, surprise attack on an enemy or group of people.

Longboats – a large oared boat usually carried by a merchant sailing ship.

Conquer/Conquest – to overcome and take control of a place or people by military force

The seven main Anglo-Saxon kingdoms were:
 Northumbria
 Mercia
 East Anglia
 Essex
 Kent
 Sussex
 Wessex



Key People

Alfred the Great – king of Wessex from 871 to c. 886 and king of the Anglo-Saxons from c. 886 to 899.

Swein Forkbeard – became the first Viking king of England in 1013