



England (Europe)

Raiders and Invaders



Timeline

700	789	793	865	866	876	886	1014	1066
The Viking Age begins	First recorded Viking attack	Viking raid on Lindisfarne	Viking army from Denmark invades England	Danes capture York (Jorvik)	Vikings from Denmark, Sweden and Norway settle permanently in England	King Alfred defeats the Vikings allowing them to settle in East England	King Canute (Cnut) of Denmark King of England	Battle of Hastings and William I becomes King of England

Invaders

The Vikings wanted new land because the places where they came from in Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden and Denmark). It was hard to grow crops, which meant there was a food shortage as the population got bigger. Britain and Europe had plenty of good farmland, so the Vikings tried to claim some of that land for themselves.



Where did the Anglo-Saxons come from?

The Romans left Britain in 410 due to fierce tribes attacking Italy and every soldier was needed back at home to defend the country. Without an army of its own, it left the country vulnerable to attackers. The Anglo-Saxons came from Denmark, Netherlands and northern Germany across the North Sea in wooden boats. They conquered England but failed to conquer Scotland, Wales and Cornwall (an area of south-west England)

BOOKS TO READ WITH THIS TOPIC



The Vikings

The Anglo-Saxons were under constant attack from Vikings who travelled from Scandinavia and invaded towns and villages in Wales, Scotland, England and the Isle of Man, finally conquering York (Jorvik) in 866. They finally defeated the Anglo-Saxons as the Normans (Norsemen) from Normandy (France) invaded and won the Battle of Hastings in 1066. The Normans in France were originally Vikings from Scandinavia!

Religion

The Vikings believed in many different gods and they thought making sacrifices to the gods kept them all happy. They also told stories about the gods, called Norse mythology. Each god was in charge of something different such as war, travel or home.

Odin - the king of gods / the god of war

Thor - the god of thunder

Freyja - the god of love and war

Loki - half god and half fire spirit causing trouble for the other gods

The Anglo-Saxons were made up of three tribes: the Angles; Saxons; and, Jutes. They name 'Angles' eventually became 'English' and their land became 'England'. The Anglo-Saxon period ended when the Normans conquered Britain in 1066.

Viking Clothes

Mostly made from wool or linen. They used dyes made from plants and minerals to make red, green, brown, yellow and blue, so their clothes were very colourful.

A famous Anglo-Saxon archaeological site is Sutton Hoo, where a whole ship was used as a grave! An Anglo-Saxon king was buried inside the ship along with some of his possessions, such as his helmet and sword.

Some of the names of our towns and villages have a little bit of Norse language in them. Do you recognise any names with endings like these: '-by', as in Corby or Whitby, means 'farm' or 'town' '-thorpe', as in Scunthorpe, means 'village'





drinking horn

A **drinking horn** was made from the horns of goats and cattle, these were used when drinking water, milk or mead.



mead

Mead was an alcoholic drink made from honey, water and yeast, often with spices and herbs.



archaeologist

An **archaeologist** is someone who works out our history by looking at artefacts that have been found.



long boat

A **long boat** is a long narrow ship that could travel fast, in shallow waters for incredibly long distances.



long house

A **long house** was made from wattle and daub, wood, or stone with an open fire in the centre of one single room.



power

The impact on the individual (influence).



Danelaw

Danelaw was an area of land ruled by the Vikings where they settled from York down to the east of England.



wattle and daub

A long house was made from **wattle and daub** which was the weaving of small wooden branches with mud, straw, horse hair and dung to create walls.



Lindisfarne

Lindisfarne was a monastery in northern England where Vikings first landed and attacked from Scandinavia.



Viking runes

The alphabet (Futhark) was made up of 24 characters (runes) making a sound, word or God.



loom

Viking women would use **looms** to spin wool linen, or silk which was then woven into cloth.



Anglo runes

The alphabet consisting of between 26-33 letters used to write Old English.



conflict

The impact of changes/disagreement



helmet

Helmets were made from iron with a bowl and nose guard and leather within. They did not have horns!



settlement

Settlements are places where people live and sometimes work. They can be small or large depending on how many people live there and how many facilities there are.



Bayeux Tapestry

A **bayeux tapestry** was a 70m long embroidered cloth depicting events leading up to the Norman conquest.



Valhalla

Brave warriors were believed to go to **Valhalla** in the afterlife – a great hall feasting alongside Odin.



shield

Shields were wooden, circular and painted (often red and white). They were often the only defence (armour was expensive).



tunic

A **tunic** is a loose garment for the upper body, typically with a length between the hips and ankles.