

Year 5: The Vikings

Key Vocabulary

Danelaw	The name given to parts of the county ruled by the laws of the Vikings / Danes.
empire	A state made up of many countries or cultures that are ruled by a single individual
invade	To enter and occupy land.
kingdom	Land from the same region or territory that is ruled by a king or queen
justice	Receiving what you deserve e.g. the punishment received for breaking the law.
longship	A long, wooden, narrow boat used by the Vikings
monk	Member of a male religious community
outlawed	Having all property taken away and no longer being able to live in the community.
pillaged	To violently steal something.
raid	A surprise attack
Wergild 'Blood price'	This is what criminals paid their victims.

Why did the Vikings carry out raids?

The Vikings came in longships from the countries of Denmark, Norway and Sweden. They raided places such as monasteries and pillaged expensive items to trade.



King Alfred the Great was the best known Anglo-Saxon king and the first to defeat the Vikings in battle.

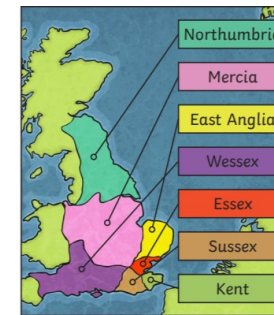
Where did the Vikings settle and who was in control?

When the Anglo-Saxons first settled in Britain, there were seven kingdoms, but by AD 878 there was just one kingdom left (Wessex) as the others had been overrun by the Vikings.

The Vikings' strength and power controlled most of Britain by the end of the 9th century, even though kings like Alfred the Great tried to defeat them. The land they controlled was named the **Danelaw** because the rules of these lands came from the Danish (Danes)

The First King of England

Over the next hundred years, the Anglo-Saxons in Wessex and Mercia fought together to drive back the Danelaw regions and by 927 CE, **King Aethelstan** had conquered the city of York and all of Northumbria, uniting all of England.



What was life like for the Vikings in Britain?

Life for the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings was similar,.

Farms - lived on farms and kept cows, pigs and sheep for milk, wool and meat.

Houses - made from wood, mud and a thatch roof. Some Viking houses had a grass roof instead.

Women - worked in the home cooking, cleaning and raising their children.

Children - didn't go to school but helped at home, learning to do jobs for when they're older.

King - the most important and powerful person.

Important people - The Vikings had chieftains. They were land owners and were often the leaders in battle..

Language - The Vikings brought their own language to Britain known as Old Norse.

Religion - The Vikings arrived as Pagans, worshipping many gods. They soon converted to Christianity

Law - Viking laws were not written down but passed on by word of mouth.

Punishments could include fines, being semi-outlawed or fighting to the death,

Stories - The Vikings told stories orally. One of the most popular was called Beowulf.

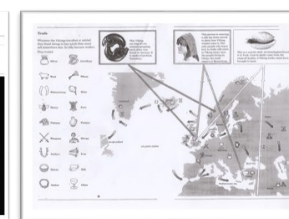
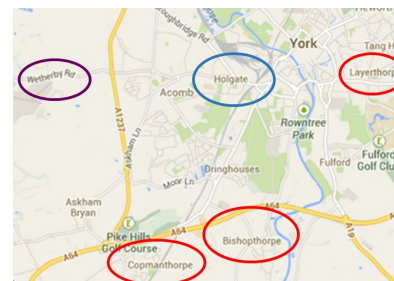
What can we learn about Viking settlements from place name endings?

Viking place names often end in 'by', 'thorpe', 'thwaite', 'gate/gaet' 'beck', 'wick', 'dale' or 'toft'. The names gives us clues to the history of that place.

thorpe - farm **by** - farm or village **gate** - street **beck** - stream

toft - a small homestead **thwaite** - a field

The map shows evidence of Viking place names in the city of York.



Recent excavations have meant that historians have changed their view of Vikings over time:

- They didn't have horned helmets
- They didn't just steal. When they settled they paid for what they wanted.
- They traded across the world
- They were skilled craftsmen

