

Important Vocabulary I could use:

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| Danelaw | An area of land ruled by the Vikings where they settled from York down to the east of England. |
| Monastery | The building or church where monks lived, worshipped and practiced Christianity. |
| Pagan | A person who believed in many gods. |
| Chieftain | The leader of a village or small group of people. |
| Freeman | A person who is not a slave and free to choose who he or she worked for. |
| Long boat | Long, narrow ships that could travel fast, in shallow waters for incredibly long distances. |
| Longhouse | Made of wattle and daub, wood or stone with an open fire in the centre of one single room. |
| Loom | Viking women would spin wool or flax which was then woven into cloth using a wooden framed loom. |
| Runes | The alphabet (Futhark) was made up of 24 characters (runes) making a sound, word or god. |
| Shield | Wooden, circular and painted (often red and white). Often their only defence (armour was expensive). |
| Valhalla | Brave warriors were believed to go to Valhalla in the afterlife – a great hall, feasting alongside Odin. |

Important Questions I can answer:

What was the relationship between the Viking and Anglo-Saxons like?

Are all British people immigrants?

Were Vikings really brutal invaders?

How did the Viking impact life in Britain today?

Important Facts I can remember:

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.

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.

Important Viking Gods

Odin – the king of gods and the god of war

Thor – the god of thunder

Freyja – the god of love and war

Loki – a half god who loved to cause trouble for the other gods

Viking clothing 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.

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'



Were the Vikings ALWAYS vicious and victorious?

Important books I could read:



Important Vikings in British History

Aethelstan

Aethelstan was a Christian Monk, but became the first King to unite the English Kingdoms in 927 AD. He worked closely with the Viking rulers to bring peace to the counties of Britain.

King Canute (990-1035)

Canute was the first Viking king of England, ruling from 1016-1035. He won a battle against Edmund II that divided their kingdoms, but when Edmund died Canute ruled both kingdoms. His sons, Harold Harefoot and then Hardicanute, ruled until 1042.

Harald Hardrada (c.1015-1066)

Harald Hardrada was the king of Norway. He led Viking armies into England but was defeated at the Battle of Stamford Bridge in York by King Harold II.

Edward the Confessor

King Edward was the penultimate Saxon King of England, before Harold II. His death in 1066 brought instability to Britain before the Norman Invasion.

Viking Britain - 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 / Allows them to settle in East England | King Canute (Cnut) of Denmark King of England | Battle of Hastings / William I King of England |