



Y4-Knowledge Organiser –The Vikings

Key Facts

- The Vikings (also known as Norsemen) came from the countries we now call Norway, Sweden and Denmark. This area is known as Scandinavia.
- Norsemen travelled the seas on longboats raiding and plundering lands.
- The Viking Age in Britain began around 1200 years ago and lasted for just over 200 years.
- Around the year AD 790 Vikings first started to raid Britain. They started out as short trips to steal treasure and take slaves.
- In time, Vikings made their home in Britain They drove the Saxons out of part of Britain and took it for themselves.
- The Saxon King, King Alfred of Wessex, fought them in a great battle but he could not stop them at first so had to let them have part of the country in a treaty known as Danelaw.
- In the Battle of Wednesfield (910AD) the Vikings came south to fight with the settled Anglo-Saxons in Wednesfield/Tettenhall area. The Anglo-Saxons managed to win the battle and pushed the Vikings back into the North of England.
- When they first arrived, most Vikings followed pagan religions, but soon converted to Christianity as they became settled in England.

Key Vocabulary

- **Anglo-Saxons:** The main group of people living in Britain when the Vikings invaded.
- **chieftain:** The leader of a village or small group of people.
- **Danelaw:** The area in Britain that the Danish Vikings ruled over.
- **Freeman:** A person who is not a slave and free to choose who he or she worked for.
- **Longship:** A Viking ship (dragon ship) with a sail and oars 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.
- **plunder:** Take loot during a raid, often causing damage at the same time.
- **raid:** A surprise attack.
- **rune:** A letter from the alphabet used by Vikings.
- **thatched:** A roof covered in straw
- **Trader:** A person who sells goods



King Alfred



King Canute



Timeline of events

- AD 700- The Viking Age begins.
- AD 793- First invasion to Britain raiding monasteries on the coast, including Lindisfarne.
- AD 866- Danes capture York (which the Vikings called Jorvik) and make it their kingdom.
- AD 876- Vikings settle permanently in Britain.
- AD 886- King Alfred defeats the Vikings but allows them to settle in Eastern England.
- AD 910-The Battle of Wednesfield.
- AD 1001- Vikings land in America and establish a settlement.
- AD 1014- King Canute of Denmark becomes King of England.
- AD 1066- Battle of Hastings take place and William the conqueror is crowned King.
- AD 1100- End of the Viking age.

