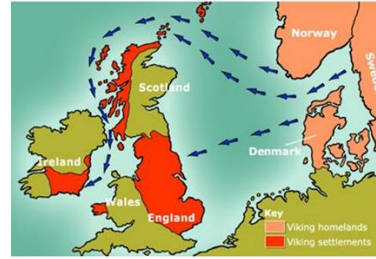


Timeline

Vikings – Were they really Villains?

The Viking Anglo-Saxon Struggle

793	First invasion by the Vikings. They raided monasteries on the coast including Lindisfarne, off the coast of Northumbria.
794	First raids on Scotland and Ireland.
820	Viking raids continue around the English coast
821	Wessex becomes the Supreme Kingdom
865	Great Viking Army from Denmark Invades England
866	Danes capture York (which the Vikings called Jorvik) and make it their kingdom (land ruled by a king)
871	King Ethelred, the West Saxon king, and his brother Alfred, defeat the Viking army at the Battle of Ashdown (in Berkshire).
876	Vikings from Denmark, Norway and Sweden settle permanently in England.
886	King Alfred the Great defeats the Vikings but allows them to settle in Eastern England (the Kingdoms of York and East Anglia) This area on England becomes known as Danelaw and is ruled by the Viking King Guthrum.
901-937	Eastern England (Danelaw) is conquered by the English
950	Vikings from Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Hebrides raid Wales, particularly the coastal monasteries.
954	Eric Bloodaxe, the last Viking King of Jorvik, is thrown out of York.
980	New Viking Raids on England
994	Olaf of Norway and Sven 'Forkbeard', son of the Danish king, lead an invading Danish army in an unsuccessful siege of London, and subsequently ravage the south-east.
1014	King Canute (Cnut) of Denmark captures the English Crown
1042	Edward the Confessor becomes King (A Saxon King)
1066	The Battle of Stamford Bridge



The Viking age in European history was from about AD700 to 1100. They came from the Scandinavian countries of Denmark, Sweden and Norway and were skilled sailors and travelled to other parts of Europe, Asia and the far East.

Vikings sailed the seas in their longboats, trading goods to buy silver, silks, spices, wine, jewellery, glass and pottery to bring back to their homes.

The name 'Viking' comes from a language called 'Old Norse' and means 'a pirate raid'. People who went off raiding in ships were said to be 'going Viking'. But not all the Vikings were bloodthirsty warriors. Some came to fight when they came to the British Isles, but others came peacefully, to settle. They were farmers, and kept animals and grew crops. They were skilful at crafting, and made beautiful metalwork and wooden carvings.

Key Vocabulary

- Chieftain** – The leader of a village or small group of people
- Danelaw** – The area of England ruled by the Vikings
- Freeman** – A person who is not a slave and free to choose who he or she worked for
- Jarl** - noblemen or rich Vikings who served the king
- Longhouse** – Viking houses where everyone lived in one room
- Karl** – everyday people and did jobs like farming and craft work. Karls weren't as rich or important as the jarls, but they weren't poor either.
- Longship** – A Viking ship with a sail and oars, also called a dragon-ship
- Monastery** – The building where monks live
- Pagan** – A person who believed in many gods
- Raider** – Someone who attacks people in their town/village and steals things then leaves.
- Runes** – The name given to the Viking alphabet
- Settler** - a person who moves with a group of others to live in a new country
- Thatched** – A roof covered in straw
- Thralls** - They did the hardest, dirtiest jobs and if they tried to run away they could be killed but they could become freemen
- Trader** – A person who sells or swaps goods with others

Vikings travelled from Scandinavia to Britain. They mostly settled in the Danelaw, to the north and east of England. Some Norwegian Vikings or 'Norse' sailed to Scotland. They made settlements in the north, and on the Shetland and Orkney Islands.



Vikings also settled on the Isle of Man and often raided Wales, but few made homes there. In Ireland, the Vikings founded the city of Dublin. Around the end of the 8th century (793), Anglo-Saxon history tells of the first Viking raids. These began a long struggle between the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings for control of Britain.

The English king, Alfred the Great, stopped the Vikings taking over all of England. He agreed to peace with them and some Vikings settled down to live in their own area of eastern England, called the Danelaw.

The Anglo-Saxons and Vikings lived alongside each other in Britain, but they didn't always get along peacefully. That all came to an end with a dispute over the throne after the death of Edward the Confessor in 1066 and the arrival of the Normans.

The Battle of Hastings

This is a scene from the Bayeux Tapestry, an important historical source, which depicts the Battle of Hastings.



It might have taken place 950 years ago, but the Battle of Hastings remains one of the most famous battles in English history.