








History: Vikings: Vicious or Victorious?

What should I already know?

I know about recent British history and impact these periods have had on my life today i.e. transport, monarchy, heroes, Tudors, technology and The Great Fire of London. I have also studied significant people in history such as Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole Tim Berner Lee and William Caxton. In KS2, I have learned about the Stone age, Romans, Egyptians, Bolton the Greeks., and Anglo Saxons. I am able to make links between the different periods in British History and World History. I have learnt about the legacies that are alive today and significant people in history that have impacted the way we live now. I have also learnt about the gods and goddesses, homes, travel etc. and made comparison to those in different eras.

Danelaw	Runes	Asgard	Berserker	Danegeld	Yggdrasil	Valhalla
Given to the part of England which the laws of the Danes that held sway over the Anglo-Saxons.	The runes functioned as letters. To write a rune would invoke a cosmological power.	A location associated with the Gods that include Thor, Odin and Loki.	Warriors who fought in a trance like fury and wearing animal skins.	A tax during King Ethelred's time to raise funds to protect against Viking raiders.	An immense mythical tree that plays a central role in Norse cosmology.	The heaven for warriors presided over by the Norse God, Odin.
						

The Vikings first invaded Britain in AD 793. The first place the Vikings raided in Britain was the monastery at Lindisfarne, a small holy island located off the northeast coast of England.

The Vikings last invaded in 1066 when William the Conqueror became King of England after the Battle of Hastings.

Viking army

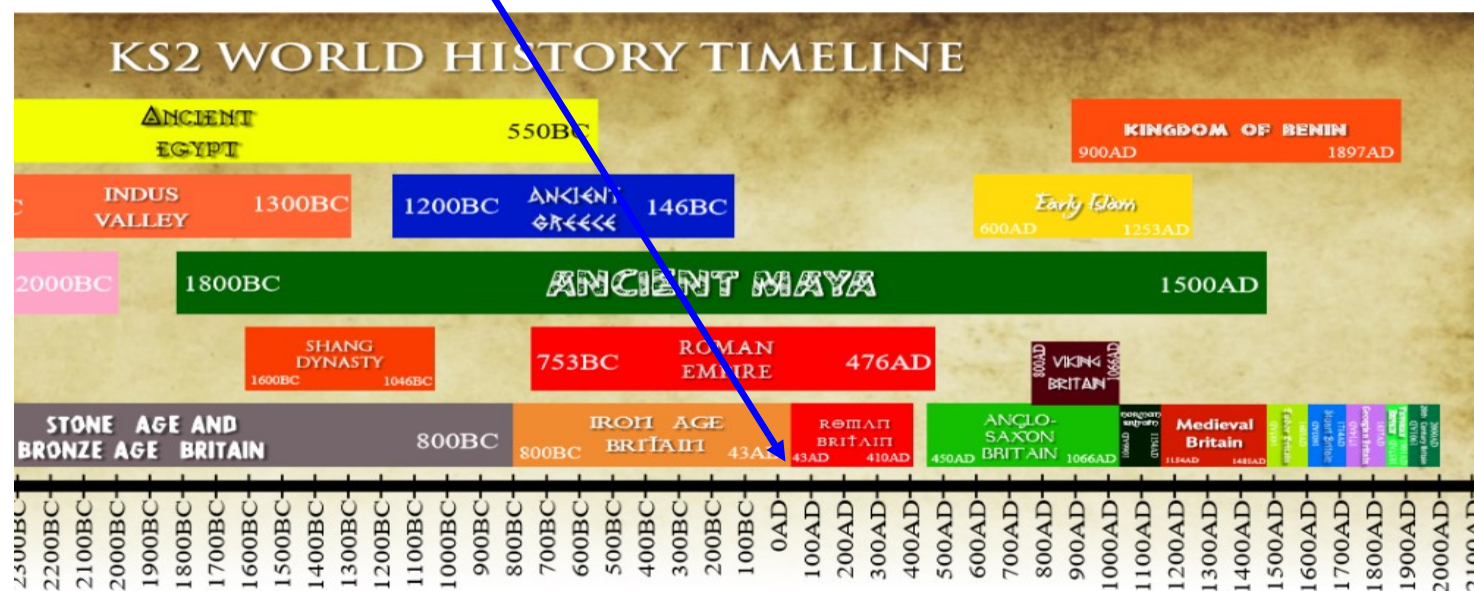
In AD865, an army of Vikings sailed across the North Sea. This time they wanted to conquer land rather than just raid it.

Over several years, the army battled through northern England and in 10 years almost all the kingdoms had fallen to the Vikings. All except for Wessex which was ruled by Alfred the Great.

After years of fighting, the Vikings and Alfred made a peace agreement. But even after this agreement, fighting went on for many more years. An imaginary dividing line was agreed to run across England, from London in the south towards Chester in the north west. The Anglo-Saxon lands were to the west and Viking lands, known as Danelaw, were roughly to the east.

Viking Legacies

- Ship building
- Navigation
- Language
- Trade
- Law & order



In 867, the Vikings kill the rival Kings of Northumbria and capture the City of York. The city became Jorvik. The Viking capital of England.

In 886, England is divided. The Saxons retain the west, while the East was to be the Viking territory—later known as the 'Danelaw'—where the English and the Vikings were equal in law.



Lindisfarne - Where it all began.

In AD793 the Vikings famously attacked a monastery at Lindisfarne in Northumbria, north-east England.

The Vikings were pagans, not Christians like most people living in Britain at the time. They did not think twice about raiding a monastery.

Christians monasteries in Britain were easy targets for the Vikings. The monks had no weapons and the buildings were filled with valuable treasures, like gold, jewels and books.

There was food, drink, cattle, clothes and tools too all very tempting to a Viking raider.