

Important People

King Alfred:

King of Wessex from 871 to 889 and defended Wessex from the Vikings: Alfred called himself the King of the English.

Aethelfaed:

Skillful ruler who defended Mercia against the Vikings, and Alfred's daughter who later married Aethelred.

Edward:

Alfred's eldest son.

Cuthrum:

Viking King of East Anglia at the time of the treaty with Alfred, and a leader of the Great Heathen Army: later called Aethelstan.

Athelstan:

First king to unite (bring together) all of the English kingdoms, in 927.

King Athelred II (the Unready):

Introduced Danegeld (an official agreement with the Vikings).

King Canute:

King of England, Denmark and Norway; he ruled England from 1016 to 1035.

Timeline of Events

449 CE - Angles and Saxons begin to settle in Britain

793 CE - Viking attack on Lindisfarne

865 CE - Great Heathen Army invades

878CE - Battle of Edington - King Alfred defeats Guthrum; Guthrum is then baptised.

927 CE - Athelstan unites the English Kingdoms

991 CE- The English lose a great battle against the Vikings: the Battle of Maldon

1013 CE - King Sweyn Forkbeard invades and becomes King of England

1016 CE - Canute becomes King of England



Key Vocabulary

Baron: lowest order of British nobility (often called Lords).

convert: persuade someone to follow a religion.

Danegeld: Money paid to Vikings by Anglo-Saxons to stop them invading and raiding England (the word means 'Danish payment').

Danelaw: The part of England which King Alfred agreed belonged to the Vikings.

Earl: British nobility. A governor of one of the great divisions of England: East Anglia, Wessex, Northumbria and Mercia.

enslave: Make someone a slave (someone who is owned by another person and has to do as they're told).

heir: someone who gets the possession of another after the other person dies.

invade: to enter an area with force in aim to take it for your own.

longship: a fast, long and narrow warship powered by both oar and sail with many rowers, used by the Vikings.

monastery: Building where monks live and worship their god.

navigator: Someone who directs where to go. Often using a compass or stars (today a GPS).

Norse: Relating to ancient Scandinavians.

pagan: A term that Christian churches gave to religions with more than one god.

Anglo-Saxon Law and Punishment:

The Anglo-Saxon laws were very similar to some we have today, although the punishments were very different.

These were often very brutal and would be carried in public to act as deterrents, to discourage others from committing such crimes. Stoning, whipping and exile were common punishments; as well as paying a fine (wergild), or receiving reparations in the form of hot or cold water ordeals.



Viking Law and Punishment:

Viking laws were not written down but passed on by word of mouth. Punishments could include fines, being semi-outlawed, fighting to the death, or revenge on someone who has killed a family member.



peace treaty: Agreement to stop fighting, which also tries to fix the cause of the conflict.

plunder: Take things by force.

raid: Attack by surprise, with the aim of stealing things.

Scandinavia: The land of Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

settle: to resolve, or make an agreement.

Vikings: People from Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden and Denmark); they were also called 'Norsemen' (men of the North) or 'Danes' (people from Denmark).

Home Learning Project

Carry out some research about the Vikings.

Show how much you have learned by :

- Making a Viking longship or helmet
- Producing a factfile about the Vikings
- Writing a non-chronological report about the Vikings

Bring your project back to school on Monday 3rd November.

Have fun !