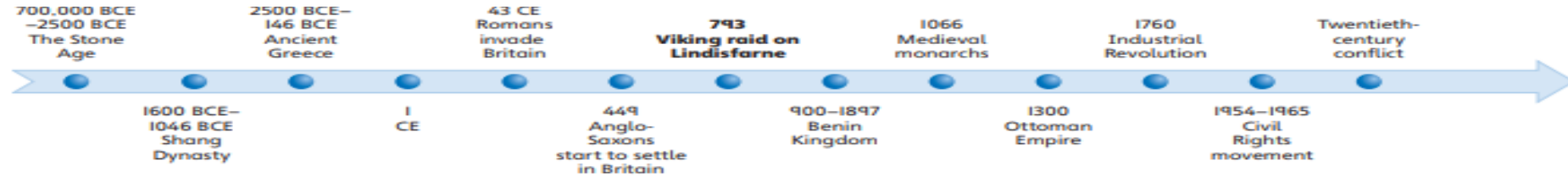


The Vikings



Who were the Vikings?

The Vikings were people from Scandinavia — mainly modern-day Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

They were skilled:

-  Warriors
-  Sailors and explorers
-  Farmers
-  Traders
-  Craftspeople

The Vikings began raiding Britain in the late 8th century. Some came to raid and steal, while others eventually settled and farmed.



Why did the Vikings come to Britain?

There was not just one reason.



Wealth

Monasteries contained valuable objects such as gold, silver, jewellery and religious treasures. They were tempting targets for raiders.



Land

Some Vikings wanted land to farm and settle because there was limited farmland in parts of Scandinavia.



Settlement

Some Vikings came to Britain to make a new home rather than simply raid.



Trade

Vikings were excellent traders. Britain offered opportunities to trade goods and make money.



Power and adventure

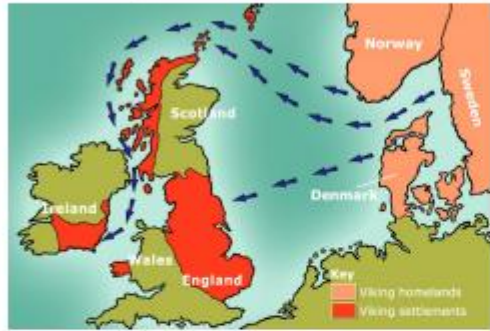
Some Viking leaders wanted wealth, fame and power. Successful warriors could gain status and followers.



Better ships

Viking ships allowed people to travel quickly across the North Sea and along Britain's rivers.

The Invasion Journey



To make the journey from Denmark, Norway and Sweden, the Vikings had to make a treacherous journey across the North Sea.

They were expert boat builders. We know what their boats looked like from examples that archaeologists have discovered.



Home learning task: Create a project about the Vikings. It can be a model, research, a fact file, a poster or an information leaflet.

Bring your project to school on Monday 2nd November.

Danelaw

Vikings were largely from Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Over a period of around 100 years the Vikings invaded large parts of northern England but there were large areas in the south (Wessex) that they never managed to invade. By 884AD an agreement was signed so that the Vikings could rule over "Danelaw" in the north of England.



Important People

King Alfred—King of Wessex 871AD—899AD. Defended Wessex from Viking invasion.

Athelstan—First king to unite the English kingdoms in 927AD.

Guthrum—King of the Vikings in Danelaw at the time of the treaty with the Saxons.

King Canute—King of England, Denmark and Norway between 1028AD and 1035AD.

Edward the Confessor—penultimate Saxon King of England (before Harold II who lost at the Battle of Hastings)



Vocabulary

Word	Meaning
archaeologist	someone who finds items from the past to learn about what life was like
chieftain	the leader of a tribe or community
conquer	to invade and take over a place
Danelaw	an area in the north of England ruled by the Vikings
invaders	people who attack and try to take land from other people
kingdom	an area ruled by a king or queen
myth	an ancient story or set of stories, especially explaining the early history of a group of people
raiders	people who attack, then take what they find away with them
runes	the symbols used as letters of the Viking alphabet
settlement	a place where people establish a community
society	the people who live in a place and their way of life
tribe	a group of people who belong to the same culture
Wessex	an area in the south of England ruled by the Anglo-Saxons