

Inquiry Question: Were the Vikings bloodthirsty?

Key Vocabulary

Danelaw	Drinking horn	Helmet	Viking (verb)	Thing	Jewellery
Longboat	Longhouse	Valhalla	Berserker	Loom	Runes
Shield	Danegeld	Pagans	Pillage	Raid	Lindisfarne
Rise and Fall	Exile	Invader	Kingdom	Exploration	Wergild
Prejudice	Bias	Oppression	Retreat	Continuity	Hierarchy

In Year 4, you learnt:

Benin civilisation and Roman Britain

To compare two periods of history identifying similarities and differences between them

To use abstract terms (empire, civilisation, peasantry, parliament etc)

Place different periods of time on a timeline and remember key historical facts and some dates from a period studied.

In some ways....and....are alike. For instance....

However, they also differ in some ways. For example....

Given that...then....

My view is that....because....This is supported by the fact that....

It is my opinion that... However, others might believe...

Key Facts

- **Invaders** - The Vikings wanted new land because the places where they came from in Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden and Denmark). It was hard to grow crops, which meant there was a food shortage as the population got bigger. Britain and Europe had plenty of good farmland, so the Vikings tried to claim some of that land for themselves. They travelled in boats called longships and first arrived in Britain around AD 787. The Vikings raided places such as monasteries and pillaged expensive items to trade. They were looking for valuable goods like gold and jewels, imported foods and other useful materials.
- **Religion** - The Vikings believed in many different gods and they thought making sacrifices to the gods kept them all happy. They also told stories about the gods, called Norse mythology. Each god was in charge of something different such as war, travel or home. Odin - the king of gods and the god of war, Thor - the god of thunder, Freyja - the god of love and war, Loki - half god and half ice giant causing trouble for the other gods
- **Clothes** - Made from wool or linen. They used dyes made from plants and minerals to make red, green, brown, yellow and blue, so their clothes were very colourful.
- **Laws and Punishments** - 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.
- **Anglo-Saxon Kings** - The kings of Anglo-Saxon Britain each ruled their own kingdom and the people in it. They fought to defend their kingdom or take control of other kingdoms. When the Anglo-Saxons first settled in Britain, there were seven kingdoms, but by AD 878 there was just one kingdom left (Wessex) as the others had been overrun by the Vikings. Many Anglo-Saxon kings tried to resist the Vikings and fought hard to keep control of their land. King Alfred the Great was the best known Anglo-Saxon king and the first to defeat the Vikings in battle.

700	789	793	865	866	876	886	1014	1066
The Viking Age begins	First recorded Viking attack	Viking raid on Lindisfarne	Viking army from Denmark invades England	Danes capture York (Jorvik)	Vikings from Denmark, Sweden and Norway settle permanently in England	King Alfred defeats the Vikings/Allows them to settle in East England	King Canute (Cnut) of Denmark King of England	Battle of Hastings/ William I King of England