

YEAR 4 - VIKINGS AND ANGLO-SAXON (410AD-1066AD) FACTS

Key Vocabulary for the topic.

conquer/conquest	To overcome and take control of a place or people by military force.
Danelaw	A part of England (mid and South East) where the Danes ruled.
hoard	Gather a collection of items (for example, gold) and hide or store it away.
invader/s	A person or a group who attacks and enters into another territory.
longboats	A large oared boat usually carried by a merchant sailing ship.
pagans	People who hold religious beliefs other than those of the main world religions. In prehistoric times, Pagans often worshipped sun gods.
raid	A rapid, surprise attack on an enemy or group of people.
settlers	People who stay in an area and build up a life for themselves there.
territory	An area of land.

Viking longships:

Vikings used longships during raids to carry their warriors. The Viking longships were powerful naval weapons in their time and were highly valued possessions. Often, the prow (front) of the ship was decorated with a carving of an animal head - perhaps a dragon or a snake; however the design was varied and they were not all made from the same material. It depended on what was available in which area of the country.

Here are some examples of the Viking longships.



Who were the Vikings?

- Vikings were largely from Scandinavia (Denmark, Norway and Sweden)
- The Viking period began with the raiding of Lindisfarne in 793AD
- The Vikings used longboats, which were very fast, for their swift attacks.
- Vikings believed in many different gods. The main ones being Odin, Loki, Thor, Frey and Freya. The days of our week are named after their gods.

The Viking invasion of Britain:

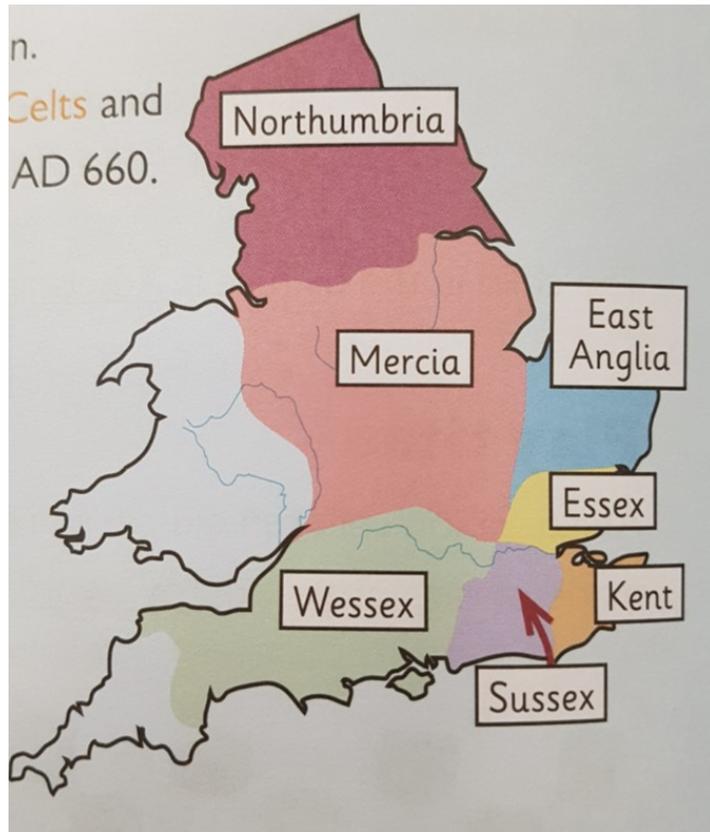
- The Viking army landed first in East Anglia and then moved North.
- Within a century, Vikings had taken over large parts of the land in northern England, although failed to over-rule the large kingdom of Wessex.
- York was the main Viking city, with up to 15,000 inhabitants.
- The Viking army was known as the Great Heathen Army and was led by King Guthrum.
- In 878AD King Alfred defeated King Guthrum at the Battle of Eddington, possibly burning some cakes.
- Following this battle, a treaty was agreed that left Vikings ruling over 'Danelaw' in the north of England and King Alfred ruling the rest.

The impact of the Vikings on Britain:

- The Vikings were responsible for the world's oldest parliament - the Tynwald - in the Isle of Man
- The Vikings wrote in runes, an early form of alphabet
- Life in Viking Britain was broadly similar to Saxon Britain: families lived in one room round houses and lived through farming.
- Any place in England with the names ending: -toft, -by, -thorpe and -gate were once owned and conquered by the Vikings.

Seven Kingdoms:

Britain was split into 7 kingdoms in AD 660: Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Essex, Wessex, Sussex and Kent.



This map shows where the Vikings came from and where they settled.



TIMELINE:

410AD The Roman army leaves Britain.	449AD Anglo-Saxons invade England.	600AD Anglo Saxons gradually take over England.	789AD First recorded Viking raid.	793AD Lindisfarne is raided by Vikings.	866AD The Vikings capture the city of York.	870AD Wessex becomes the last Saxon Kingdom.	871AD Alfred the Great becomes King of Wessex.	937AD Athelstan becomes King of England.	1042AD Edward the Confessor becomes King of England.	1066AD William the Conqueror wins the battle of Hastings. The last Anglo-Saxon king dies.
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867-878AD

Invasion of the Great Danish (Viking) army. Series of big Viking victories.