

Class 3 Knowledge Organiser – The Vikings

The Vikings (also known as **Norsemen**) came from the countries we now call Norway, Sweden and Denmark. This area is known as **Scandinavia**. Norsemen travelled the seas on longboats raiding and plundering lands. The Viking Age in Britain began around 1200 years ago and lasted for just over 200 years. Around the year AD 790 Vikings first started to raid Britain. They started out as short trips to steal **treasure** and take **slaves**. In time, Vikings made their home in Britain They drove the Saxons out of part of Britain and took it for themselves. The Saxon King, **King Alfred of Wessex**, fought them in a great battle but he could not stop them at first so had to let them have part of the country in a treaty known as **Danelaw**.

Timeline

AD 700- The Viking Age begins.

AD 793- First invasion to Britain raiding monasteries on the coast, including Lindisfarne.

AD 866- Danes capture York (which the Vikings called Jorvik) and make it their kingdom.

AD 876- Vikings settle permanently in Britain.

AD 886- King Alfred defeats the Vikings but allows them to settle in Eastern England.

AD 1001- Vikings land in America and establish a settlement.

AD 1014- King Canute of Denmark becomes King of England.

AD 1066- Battle of Hastings take place and William the conqueror is crowned King.

AD 1100- End of the Viking age.

Key Figures:

King Alfred the Great (AD 849-899)- Alfred did a lot of great things for England including defeating the Vikings in several battles and keeping part of England under Anglo-Saxon rule.

King

King Athelstan (AD 894-939) – considered the first King of Britain and was remembered as great leader.

King Canute (AD 995-1035)- Viking King of England, Denmark and Norway.

King Ethelred II the Unready (AD 966-1016) – English King from 978 to 1013.

William the conqueror (AD 1028- 1087)- Became King of England in 1066 after winning in the Battle of Hastings.

Key Vocabulary

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| Anglo-Saxons | The main group of people living in Britain when the Vikings invaded. |
| Danegeld | Money paid to Vikings to stop them from raiding. |
| Danelaw | The area in Britain that the Danish Vikings ruled over. |
| Futhark | The Viking alphabet. |
| Knarr | A Viking ship used for long voyages and trading because it had lots of storage space. |
| Longship | A Viking ship used for fighting and carrying out raids. |
| Monastery | A place where people who have dedicated their lives to religion, such as monks or nuns live. |
| Norsemen | The name given to people living in Scandinavia at the time of the Vikings. It means <i>'men of the North'</i> . |
| Pagan | A person who believes in many gods. |
| Plunder | Take loot during a raid, often causing damage at the same time. |
| Raid | A surprise attack. |
| Rune | A letter from the alphabet used by Vikings. There were only 16. |
| Runestone | A standing stone engraved with writing and sometimes a picture. |
| Saga | A long Viking poem, which tells the stories of warriors and heroes. |
| Scandinavia | The countries of Norway, Sweden and Denmark. This is the area Vikings came from. |
| Trade | Sell items for money, or swap them for other items. |
| Treaty | An agreement made between two or more people, groups or countries. |
| Valhalla | The place Vikings believed they would go to after death if they died fighting bravely in battle. |
| Wergild | The money a person or piece of property was thought to be worth. If a person was killed, their family would be paid wergild by the killer. |

