

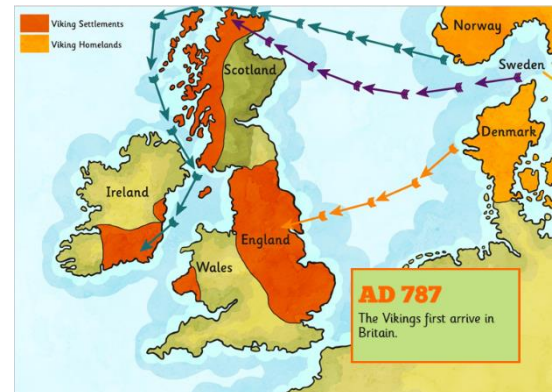


## The Vikings and Norman Conquest

In this unit, your child will learn about the raids and invasions by Vikings in Anglo-Saxon Britain. The children will learn who the Vikings were as well as when and where they raided and settled. They will learn about significant events from the period and order these chronologically on a timeline. The children will find out about the Anglo-Saxon kings who ruled during the 'Viking Age' and examine their influence and significance in British history. In addition to this, they will learn about the Anglo-Saxon justice system and compare and contrast crimes, punishments and laws with their modern day equivalents. The children will also have the opportunity to learn about different aspects of everyday Viking life. They will explore the types of houses that the Vikings lived in, what clothes they wore and even what types of food they ate.

### Timeline of key events

787 AD	The Vikings first arrive in Britain.
793 AD	The Vikings attack the Monastery of Lindisfarne in Northumbria.
866 AD	The Vikings capture the city of York.
870 AD	Wessex is the last Anglo-Saxon Kingdom.
871 AD	Alfred the Great becomes King of Wessex and manages to drive the Vikings out of the south.
878 AD	By this time, the Vikings had settled permanently in England.
886 AD	The Vikings capture the city of York.
900 AD	The Vikings establish rule over Scotland.
954 AD	The last Viking, King of Jorvik (York), Eric Bloodaxe, is forced out of York.
1013 AD	King Sven of Denmark arrives with his son Cnut and become King of Danelaw. The Saxon King, Ethelred, flees the country.
1014 AD	King Sven, King Ethelred and Ethelred's first son, Edmund Ironside die. Cnut becomes King of England.
1042 AD	King Ethelred's second son, Edward the Confessor, is invited to become King of England.
1066 AD	The last Anglo-Saxon king, King Harold, is defeated by William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings.



### Viking Life Facts

Vikings used whatever natural resources were available to make their houses. Typically, this might have been stone or wood for the walls, a thatched (straw) roof and wattle and daub (stick and mud/dung) on the inside walls to keep in heat.



Viking metal workers made objects from a wide range of different materials, from iron to gold.



Vikings wrote using characters from an alphabet called the Futhork.



Jewellery was worn to show off how rich a person was.



When the Vikings first came to Britain they were pagans, which means they worshipped many gods. Over time, many Vikings converted to Christianity.

Most Vikings wore clothes made from wool or linen. Men wore trousers and tunics which were fastened at the waist with a leather belt. Women wore long sleeved linen dresses under a woollen apron type dress.



The individual letters of the Viking alphabet were called runes. There were 16 runes in total.

The Vikings made their own bread by grinding corn into flour and then mixing it with water to make a dough.



### Viking Longships

The Vikings built longships for war and raiding. The ships were also sometimes called 'dragonships'.

**Appearance**  
The front end of the ship would have a carved figure head to scare off enemies and be intimidating.

**Speed**  
They were long and narrow for travelling quickly through the water. This was important for surprise attacks and speedy getaways!

**Power**  
The ships were powered by wind in a wool sail or manpower by rowing with oars if there wasn't any wind available.

**Steering**  
One man would steer the ship by using a big steering oar at the back (stern) of the ship.

**Room**  
A typical longship would have enough room to fit around 50 - 60 people inside. Eating and sleeping were done on the deck as there was no shelter on the ships.

**Protection**  
The Viking men's shields were tied over the oar holes to protect both men and women during battles.



### Key Vocabulary

**Invade** - To enter a country or region and take it over and occupy it.

**Raid** - A sudden attack where precious items might be stolen or destroyed and people killed.

**Norse** - Norwegian language.

**Kingdom** - A country, state or territory ruled by a king or queen.

**Saga** - A story which is based in a true event.

**Runes** - These were used to form the alphabets of Germanic people.

**Longhouse** - A type of Viking house generally consisting of one room and was rectangular in shape.

**Longship** - A long, wooden, narrow boat used by the Vikings.

**Pillage** - To steal goods using violent tactics.