

## Spring 1: The Vikings

### Key objectives and facts to learn

**To understand where the Vikings came from, where and when they invaded England.**

The Vikings came from Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden and Denmark). At first the Vikings raided the UK before later invading and settling. Reasons for settling in the UK included improved weather conditions and opportunities to farm richer farmland.

**To understand what life was like in a Viking home during the Viking period.**

Vikings lived in one large (usually single-storey) house. A central open fire was used to cook on and heat the home. In the winter months, animals often lived indoors to protect them from wolves. There were no windows for natural light and people didn't have their own personal space. The house would have been dark, smoky and crowded.

**To understand how the Vikings travelled.**

They travelled by longship, using the stars to work out their position. When it was cloudy they used a sunstone crystal to work out where the sun was in the sky to help them navigate too.

**How did the legal system work in Viking times?**

The Vikings had strict laws which were discussed at the Thing. This was a meeting held in a field to discuss and settle problems. Different crimes had different consequences, and these were also discussed and decided at the Thing.

**What happened to the Vikings?**

The age of the Vikings ended with the Norman invasion in 1066. Following the Norman invasion, William the Conqueror took control.

### Key Vocabulary

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Norsemen</b>         | Another name Vikings were known by.  |
| <b>Scandinavia</b>      | Norway, Sweden and Denmark.  |
| <b>Longboat/ship</b>    | The type of ship Vikings travelled in  |
| <b>Danelaw</b>          | It was a treaty, which allowed the Vikings to rule over part of England and was known as Danelaw.  |
| <b>Period</b>           | A time/ point in history.  |
| <b>Raid</b>             | An attack. The Vikings attacked places like Lindisfarne and left with precious items such as gold. |
| <b>Primary Source</b>   | A source that gives first-hand experience from someone who was involved.                           |
| <b>Secondary Source</b> | A book, article or other source that provides information about a historical event.                |
| <b>The Thing</b>        | A meeting  |
| <b>Figurehead</b>       | A dragon or creature carved onto the front of a longship.  |

### Timeline of Key Events:

- 700 AD** The Viking Age begins
- 793 AD** Viking attacks on Lindisfarne
- 842 AD** Viking raids on London
- 865 AD** Great Heathen Army invade
- 866 AD** Vikings capture York (which they named Jorvik) and make it their kingdom
- 878 AD** Battle of Edington
- 927 AD** Athelstan unites English kingdoms
- 950 AD** Vikings from Ireland & Isle of Man raid the west coast of Wales
- 991 AD** Battle of Maldon leads to the first payments of Danegeld
- 994 AD** Danish attack on London fails
- 1000 AD** Vikings reach Newfoundland
- 1013 AD** King Sven of Sweden lands and becomes King of England
- 1016 AD** King Cnut becomes King of England
- 1042 AD** Saxon Edward the Confessor returns to become King of England
- 1066 AD** Edward the Confessor dies, leading to several contenders claiming the throne. Harold Godwinson becomes King, but is killed by William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings.

Anglo-Saxon  
Seven Kingdoms

