Vikings and Anglo Saxons - Year 5 & 6 - Summer Term 1 2024

←•••	1800 ↑	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2022	2023	2024
AD 787 – 1066 Vikings and Anglo- Saxons																	Now

National Curriculum History

Pupils should continue to develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history, establishing clear narratives within and across the periods they study.

They should note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms.

They should regularly address and sometimes devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance.

They should construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information.

They should understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.

Cause and effect Why did the Vikings come to Britain?

British weather was warmer and better for farming. Britain also had lots of riches in churches that could be raided. The Vikings fought for control of Britain with the Anglo-Saxons for around 250 years.

Why did the Anglo-Saxons come to Britain? Britain had been left undefended when the Romans left. Some Anglo-Saxons had been invited to help defend against the Picts in the north. The Anglo-Saxons stayed and settled in Britain for around 600 years.

Why did the Vikings raid lots of Britain?

They desired to increase their wealth by stealing riches and capturing slaves. Vikings saw that Britain was very wealthy, particularly the churches and monasteries, which saw more raids and eventually the Vikings settling in Britain.

Why did the Vikings settle in Britain?

The soil and climate were better for farming and Britain was a wealthy place. Lots of English language comes from Old Norse as well as place names ending in –by or –thorpe. It also connected Britain with Viking trade routes.

Key Dates

AD 787—Vikings first arrive in Britain.

AD 793—Vikings attack the monastery at Lindisfarne, Northumbria.

AD 866—Vikings capture the city of York.

AD 870—Wessex is the last Anglo-Saxon kingdom.

AD 871—Alfred the Great becomes the King of Wessex and manages to drive the Vikings out of the south.

AD 878—By this time, the Vikings had settled permanently in Britain.

AD 886—King Alfred makes a deal with the Vikings, giving them the east (Danelaw) and keeping the west.

AD 900—The Vikings establish rule over Scotland.

AD 954—The last Viking King of York, Eric Bloodaxe, is forced out.

AD 1013—King Sven of Denmark arrives with his son, Canute, to become King of Danelaw. The Saxon King, Ethelred, flees the county.

AD 1014—King Sven, King Ethelred and Ethelred's first son Edmund Ironside die. Canute becomes King of England.

Pupils should be taught about: the Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor.

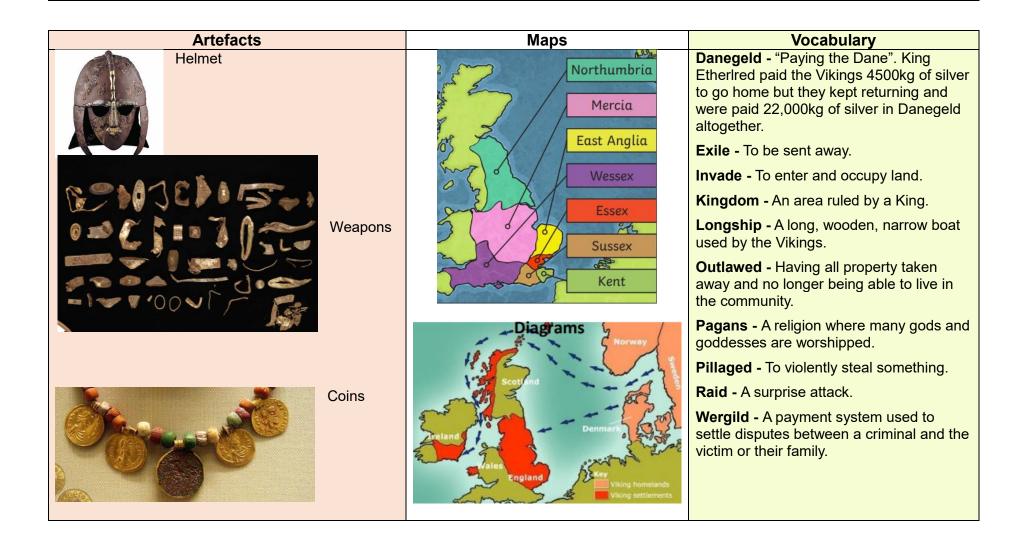
Why did religion in Britain change?

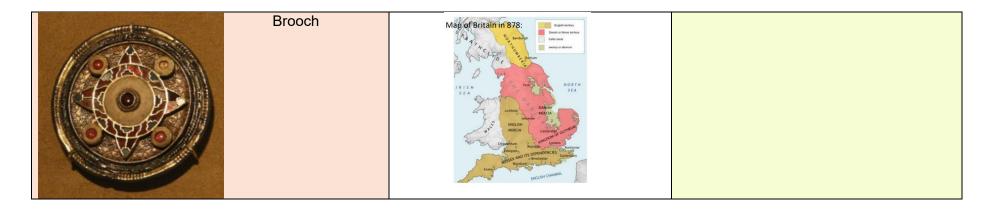
The Anglo-Saxons were pagan and believed in lots of different gods. When they came to Britain, they brought their gods with them.

Christianity (from the Romans) was abandoned, and people went back to believing in either Norse gods or Celtic gods again.

AD 1042—King Ethelred's second son, Edward the Confessor, is invited to become King of England.

AD 1066—The last Anglo-Saxon king, King Harold, is defeated in the Battle of Hastings.





Key Learning
What was Britain like before the first invasions?
Use evidence to answer questions about what life was like in Britain.
What happened at the first Viking invasion?
Write a newspaper article about the first Viking invasion at Lindisfarne from the point of view of the Anglo-Saxons.
What were the first Viking settlements of Britain and how did this affect the Anglo-Saxons?
Use the information to complete the timeline showing how the Danelaw was established.
Why was King Alfred dubbed 'Alfred the Great'?
Create an information text about Alfred the Great.
What was it like for Vikings living in Britain?
Create a Venn diagram to show how life was similar and different for Anglo-Saxons living in the southwest of England and the Vikings living under Danelaw.
What happened at the end of the Viking and Anglo-Saxon era in Britian?
Find out about Edward the Confessor and write a persuasive letter to the Witan explaining why their claim to the throne of England is the strongest.