

Word	Definition
trade	Buying and selling things that people make or grow.
invade	Entering a country by force.
runes	Viking alphabet/letters
weapon	Object used to attack or defend.
raid	A sudden surprise attack
Longship	A long sail and oar ship used by the Vikings
armour	A covering to protect the body in battle.
longhouse	A long, single storey building that families lived in.
settle	To find or make a home
conquer	To get something through great effort.
Scandinavia	A group of countries: Norway, Sweden, Denmark.
Norsemen	People who came from Scandinavian countries.

Before the Vikings

The Anglo-Saxons were a group of farmer-warriors who lived in Britain. Made up of three tribes who came over from Europe, they were called the Angle, Saxon and Jute tribes. The two largest were the Angles and Saxons which is why we call it the Anglo-Saxon period. They conquered the Romanised Britons who came before them.

The Invasion Journey



To make the journey from Denmark, Norway and Sweden, the Vikings had to make a treacherous journey across the North Sea.

They were expert boat builders. We know what their boats looked like from examples that archaeologists have discovered.

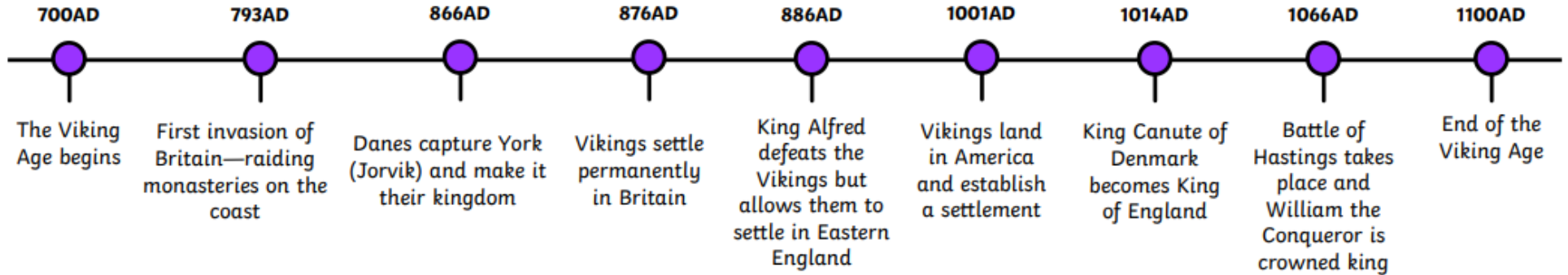


Key Info

The Viking Age in Britain began in 700 AD and lasted for just over 200 years. Around the year 790 AD 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.



Viking Time Line



A Reason to Invade

Farming was tough for the Vikings. The northern part of Scandinavia was full of mountains. The soil along the coastline was sandy. It was difficult to grow crops. As the population grew they could not grow enough food for everyone.



Around 750AD, some Viking started to explore other places to live and began to settle in Britain where the Anglo-Saxons lived.

Important People

King Alfred—King of Wessex 871AD—899AD. Defended Wessex from Viking invasion.

Athelstan—First king to unite the English kingdoms in 927AD.

Guthrum—King of the Vikings in Danelaw at the time of the treaty with the Saxons.

King Canute—King of England, Denmark and Norway between 1028AD and 1035AD.

Edward the Confessor—penultimate Saxon King of England (before Harold II who lost at the Battle of Hastings)



Society

AGRICULTURE – Vikings were farmers and kept animals and grew crops. They were also craft workers who made objects from wood and metal.

HOUSES—Viking families lived together in a longhouse, which were also made of wood and had a thatched roof. There would be a central fire in the room used for heating and cooking.

BELIEFS – Vikings were pagans, they believed in many gods who were in charge of different parts of life. They believed that if they died bravely in battle they would be taken to Valhalla, a great feasting hall in the afterlife.