

Year 4: Spring 2

What did the Vikings want and how did Alfred help to stop them getting it?

National Curriculum subject content:

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

Key skills covered:

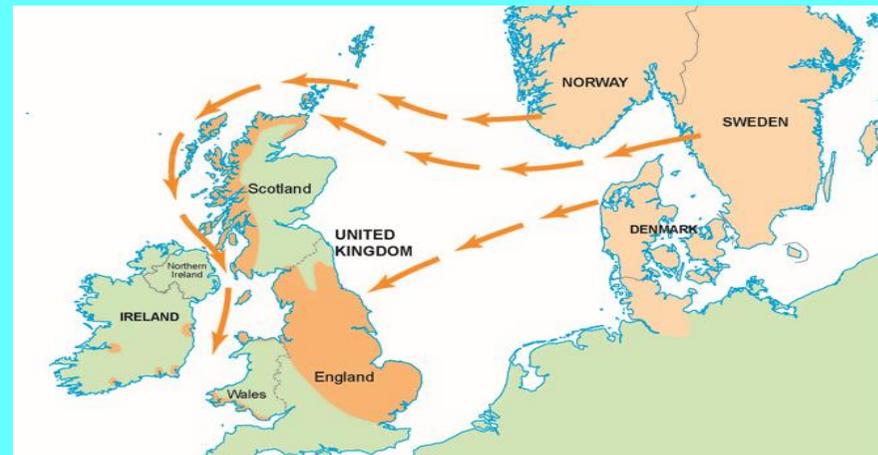
Chronology, characteristic features, cause and consequence, historical interpretation and historical enquiry

Timeline of events:

787 CE: First Scandinavian raids
793 CE: **Attack on Lindisfarne**
871 CE: King Alfred, the Great, becomes King of Wessex
876 CE: Guthrum, Viking King, attacks Wessex
878 CE: Battle at Eddington (King Alfred the Great defeated the Vikings)
878 CE: Peace Treaty between King Alfred and King Guthrum (which essentially split England into two parts ruled by the Saxons and the Vikings)
899 CE: King Alfred dies
924 CE: Athelstan becomes King of Mercia
927 CE: Athelstan conquered York
928 CE: Athelstan becomes King of whole England
937 CE: Battle of Brunanburh
939 CE: King Athelstan dies
954 CE: Eric Bloodaxe, King of the Vikings was killed.
978 CE: Aethelred becomes King
1002 CE: King Aethelred orders for all Danish men to be killed
1013 CE: Swedish King, Sven, becomes King of England
1016 CE: Danish King, King Cnut, becomes King of England
1042 CE: Edward the Confessor becomes King of England and dies
January 1066 CE: Harold II becomes King of England
1066 CE: Battle of Hastings – October 1066
1066 CE: Duke William of Normandy becomes King of England
1100 CE: End of Viking Age

Where did the Vikings come from?

At the time, the Vikings were called 'Norsemen' or 'Men of the North'. They did not belong to a single tribe, race or nation of people. They were made up of many tribes, each ruled by a separate Chieftain who lived in Scandinavia and in particular the southern areas of modern-day Norway, Sweden and all of Denmark. It was not until many years later, that they became known as the Vikings.



Key vocabulary

Monastery	A building where people worship and devote.
Chieftain	The leader of a village or small group of people.
Danelaw	The area of England ruled by the Vikings. Also, the agreement that was reached after the Battle of Eddington, allowing King Guthrum the lands of eastern England.
Inhabited	To live in a place.
Scandinavia	The area is made up of the countries, Denmark, Sweden and Norway.
Pagan	A person who believes in many Gods.
Runes	Viking letters of the alphabet.
Viking Longship	A ship used by Vikings for raids.
Ritual	Ceremony of a series of acts always performed the same way.
Treaty	A written agreement between two states.
Massacre	The killing of many people.
Beserker	Terrifying Viking warriors.
Valhalla	The Vikings believed they go to this place after death.
Knarr	A Viking trading ship.
Danegeld	Land tax to raise funds for protection against Vikings.
Excavation	To uncover by digging.
Priory	A small monastery.
Wessex	An Anglo Saxon Kingdom in the South of England.
Myth	Something which is widely believed to be true but is a false belief.

What else did Alfred do?

He built fortified towns.

He ordered a 'ship army' which was the start of the English navy.

He set up a 'standing army'

He required all priories, abbeys and churches to start schools for boys.

He set up people to translate Latin books to English.

He set up a 'law code' so that everyone could understand it.

He took guidance from educated people.

King Alfred the Great



King Alfred the Great became King of Wessex in 871. He defeated the Viking army at the Battle of Eddington in 878. After the battle, King Alfred persuaded King Guthrum (the Viking King) to be baptised and to become a Christian, rather than to continue to worship the many gods of the old Nordic religion.

Viking horned helmets are a myth?

There is absolutely no historical evidence that Viking Norsemen wore helmets with horns. The helmets actually looked like this.

