



Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School



Year 3/4

Topic: Vicious Vikings Surpassed the Saxons?

History strand: the Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England

Throughout this topic, we will be investigating six key questions. By the end of the unit, children will be able to form their own opinions of the Vikings.

- 1) What image do we have of the Vikings today?
- 2) Why have the Vikings gained such a bad reputation?
- 3) How did the Vikings try to take over the country and how close did they get?
- 4) How have recent excavations changed our view of the Vikings? (Focusing on Jorvick)
- 5) What can we learn about Viking settlements from a study on place-name endings?
- 6) How should we remember the Vikings?

Timeline of Key Events

Date	Event
410AD	Roman rule in Britain ends
459AD	Angles and Saxons invade
597AD	Augustine comes from Rome to spread Christianity to the Anglo-Saxons
616AD	First Christian English King
633AD	Lindisfame Monastery built
793AD	Vikings raid on Lindisfame
867-878AD	Series of big Viking victories
886AD	Vikings and Alfred divide England
899AD	King Alfred dies
1066AD	Battle of Hastings - Norman rule

Key Vocabulary

Word	Meaning
Stereotype	When people are placed in certain groups with certain behaviours and looks
Monastery	A place where monks (a religious community) live and work
Longship	Viking ship used in battle
Plunder	To violently steal from other people, usually causing death and destruction
Raid	To enter a place (often a surprise) looking to steal something or someone
Settler	A person who goes to a new area and makes it their home
Reputation	Overall quality of character as judged by people i.e. the Vikings had a bad reputation
Jorvick	Now known as York. The Vikings called it Jorvick

Fascinating Facts!

- The Vikings came from the modern Scandinavian countries of Denmark, Norway and Sweden.
- They travelled in boats called longships and first arrived in Britain around AD 787.
- The Vikings raided places such as monasteries and plundered and pillaged expensive items to trade, looking for valuable goods like gold and jewels, imported foods and other useful materials. They targeted monasteries because the monks had no weapons.
- They invaded and settled in Scotland before heading south to places such as York.
- The Vikings wanted to claim land and tried to take over much of Britain.
- When the Anglo-Saxons first settled in Britain, there were seven kingdoms, but by AD 878 there was just one kingdom left (Wessex) as the others had been overrun by the Vikings.
- King Alfred the Great was the best known Anglo-Saxon king and the first to defeat the Vikings in battle.
- The Vikings and King Alfred agreed on a treaty. England was divided so that King Alfred could rule his area and the Vikings could rule their area.
- By AD 878 the Vikings had settled permanently in Britain.
- The kings of Anglo-Saxon Britain each ruled their own kingdom and the people in it and tried to resist the Vikings, fighting hard to keep control of their land