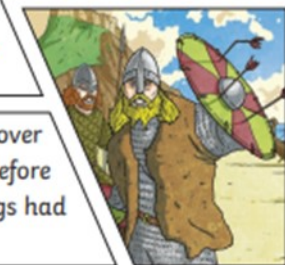


Year 4—Vikings and Saxons—Terms 1 and 2

Key Vocabulary	
Danegeld	"Paying the Dane". King Etherled paid the Vikings 4500kg of silver to go home but they kept returning and were paid 22,000kg of silver in Danegeld altogether.
exile	To be sent away.
invade	To enter and occupy land.
kingdom	An area ruled by a king.
longship	A long, wooden, narrow boat used by the Vikings.
outlawed	Having all property taken away and no longer being able to live in the community.
pagans	A religion where many gods and goddesses are worshipped.
pillaged	To violently steal something.
raid	A surprise attack.
wergild	A payment system used to settle disputes between a criminal and the victim or their family.

The Early Vikings

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 **pillaged** expensive items to trade. They were looking for valuable goods like gold and jewels, imported foods and other useful materials.



The Vikings also wanted to claim land and tried to take over much of Britain. They **invaded** and settled in Scotland before heading south to places such as York. By AD 878 the Vikings had settled permanently in Britain.

Anglo-Saxon Kings

The kings of Anglo-Saxon Britain each ruled their own **kingdom** and the people in it. They fought to defend their **kingdom** or take control of other **kingdoms**. 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. Many Anglo-Saxon kings tried to resist the Vikings and fought hard to keep control of their land. King Alfred the Great was the best known Anglo-Saxon king and the first to defeat the Vikings in battle.



Key Dates	
401-	Roman withdrawal of Britain.
410	Anglo Saxon migration begins.
450	Anglo Saxon invaders arrive in Britain
600	Anglo Saxons gradually take over Britain.
793	Vikings attack and capture the city of York (Jorvik)
871	Alfred the Great becomes King of Wessex
886	The Vikings and King Alfred divide Britain (Dane Law)
954	Eric Bloodaxe, the last king of Jorvik, is thrown out.
1014	King Canute (Cnut) of Denmark becomes King of England.
1042	Edward the Confessor becomes King
1066	Battle of Hastings
1100	End of the Viking Age

Links with other subjects

English— Two of our writing units are based on Cressida Cowell's writing, How to Train a Dragon.

GR— Most of our Guided Reading texts focus on myths, legends and Viking sagas. In addition, the children will look at non fiction pieces about the Viking invasion, key characters and events.

Outdoor Learning—Where possible we spend time outside 'living the Viking life'. For example, the children may build and run trading stations using outside scales and weights.

Science—Our topic on sound is based around our English text of How to Train a Dragon.

National Curriculum Objectives

I can describe the Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor

I can describe Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots

Prior Learning

- Children will know of the Saxons from their Year Three work on the Romans. They will be able to discuss the Iron Age and suggested how Saxon/Viking life could have been.
- Children will be able to locate the countries of Europe in their relation to the UK and the UK itself.



Skills Covered

- I can place some historical periods in a chronological framework
- I can use historic terms related to the period of study
- I can use sources of information in ways that go beyond simple observations to answer questions about the past
- I can use a variety of resources to find out about aspects of life in the past.
- I can confidently explain what I have learned in an organised and structured way, using appropriate terminology
- I can use evidence to support arguments

Key Questions

- Why/How did King Alfred get the title, 'The Great'?
- Were Saxon laws just?
- Why did the Vikings raid and settle in Britain?
- What are the similarities between Saxon and Viking culture?
- What legacy is left behind in the United Kingdom today from Saxons and Vikings?
- Were Vikings all invaders?
- How has our understanding of Vikings and Saxons been impacted by bias sources?
- Should Aethelflaed be considered more important than Alfred the Great?

Key People

- King Alfred the Great** (AD 849-899): Alfred did a lot of great things for England including defeating the Vikings in several battles and keeping part of England under Anglo-Saxon rule.
- Aethelstan** (AD 927 -939) - First King to unite English kingdoms.
- Guthrum** (AD 879-890) - King of the Vikings in Danelaw at the time of the treaty with the Saxons
- King Canute** (AD 995-1035): Viking King of England, Denmark and Norway.
- Edward the Confessor** (AD 1042-1066) - penultimate Saxon King of England (before Harold II who lost at Hastings)
- William the Conqueror** (AD 1066-1087): Became King of England in 1066 after winning in the Battle of Hastings.



Viking Life

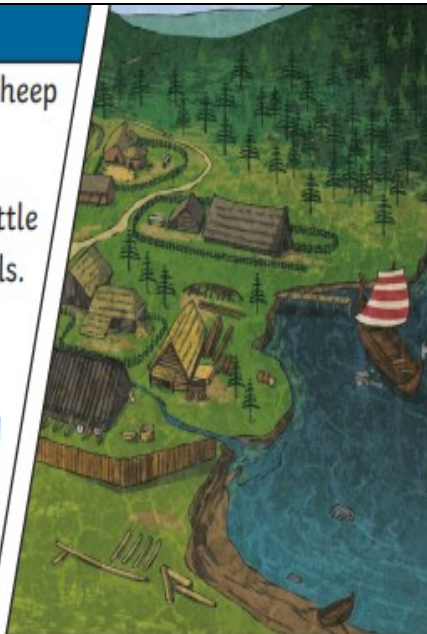
Farms - Vikings lived on farms and kept cows, pigs and sheep for milk, wool and meat.

Houses - Walls made of stone or wood. A straw roof. Wattle and daub (sticks and mud/dung) for the inside of the walls.

Jewellery - Worn to show off how rich a person was.

Pagans - Vikings arrived as pagans but eventually converted to Christianity.

Sagas - Vikings used rhyme to tell stories about adventures and battles against monsters.



Useful Websites and resources

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxsbcdm/articles/z8q487h#:~:text=Around%20the%20end%20of%20the,taking%20over%20all%20of%20England.>

<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/Invaders/>

<http://primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/vikingsax.html>

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/general-history/anglo-saxons/>

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/members-area/kids/anglo-saxon-england/>

