

# The Vikings

Heritage of  
our country

Year  
6

## Invasion Map



Key: ■ Viking homelands ■ Viking settlements

## Key learning

Understand when and where the Vikings came from.

Understand how and why the Vikings invaded Britain.

Understand how some kings in Britain dealt with the Viking invaders.

Discuss Viking raids and Danegeld in detail.

Explain how the legal system worked in Anglo Saxon and Viking Britain.

Explain how the last Anglo Saxon kings shaped Britain.

## Historical Vocabulary

**Conquer:** overcome and take control of (a place or people) by military force.

**Raid:** rapid surprise attack on an enemy by troops, aircraft, or other armed forces.

**Invalidate:** enter in large numbers, especially with intrusive effect.

**Settle:** make one's permanent home somewhere.

**Danelaw:** is a historical name given to the part of England in which the laws of the Danes held sway and dominated those of the Anglo-Saxons.

**Danegeld:** The Danegeld was a tax raised to pay tribute to the Viking raiders to save a land from being ravaged.

**Longship:** a major type of naval power in their time and were highly valued possessions.

**Longhouse:** A Viking dwelling which were usually made of wood, stone or earth and turf.

**Figurehead:** a carving, typically a full-length figure, set at the prow of an old-fashioned sailing ship.

**Monastery:** a building or buildings occupied by a community of monks living under religious vows.

**Artefact:** an object made by a human being, typically one of cultural or historical interest.

## Timeline of key events

**787 AD**  
First Scandinavian raids.

**793 AD**  
Viking attacks on Lindisfarne.

**842 AD**  
Viking raids on London.

**865 AD**  
Great heathen Army invade.

**878 AD**  
Battle of Edington.

**927 AD**  
Athelstan unites English Kingdoms.

**950 AD**  
Vikings from Ireland and Isle of Man raid the west coast of Wales.

**991 AD**  
Battle of Maldon leads to the first payments of Danegeld.

**994 AD**  
Danish attack on London fails.

**1000 AD**  
Vikings reach Newfoundland.

**1013 AD**  
King Sven of Sweden lands and becomes King of England.

**1016 AD**  
King Cnut becomes King of England.

**1042 AD**  
Saxon Edward the Confessor returns to become King of England.

**1066 AD**  
Edward the Confessor dies, leading to several contenders for the throne. Harold Godwinson becomes King, but is killed after 9 months by William the Conqueror at the battle of Hastings.



Viking longship



Viking army

## Important Historical People

**King Alfred:**  
King of Wessex from 871 to 899, defended Wessex from the Viking conquest.

**Athelstan:**  
First King to unite English kingdoms, 927.

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

**King Cnut:**  
King of England, Denmark and Norway 1028 to 1035.

**Edward the Confessor:**  
penultimate Saxon King of England (before Harold II who lost at Hastings).