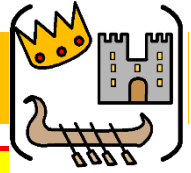


Vikings AD 793 - AD 1066

Were the Vikings ruthless or peaceful settlers?



Key Vocabulary	Key Questions and Facts		
<p><b>Danegeld:</b> "Paying the Dane". King Ethelred paid the Vikings 4500kg of silver to go home but they kept returning and were paid 22,000kg of silver in Danegeld altogether</p> <p><b>Valhalla:</b> In Norse mythology, Valhalla is the hall of slain warriors, who live there blissfully under the leadership of the god Odin.</p> <p><b>The Battle of Tettenhall</b> - took place, according to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, near Tettenhall on 5 August 910. The allied forces of Mercia and Wessex met an army of Northumbrian Vikings in Mercia</p> <p><b>Asgard</b> – the home of Norse gods.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>What were some of the key events in the Viking settlement of Britain?</b></li> </ul> <p>Vikings lived on farms and kept cows, pigs and sheep for milk, wool and meat. 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>What was Viking society like?</b></li> </ul> <p>Viking society comprised three levels: nobles, Jarls, free people Karls and slaves or peasants' thralls. In the 8th century most Vikings lived by farming, grazing animals, hunting, and fishing, whether in villages, isolated farms or on large estates.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>How did the Vikings trade and explore?</b></li> </ul> <p>Early in the Viking Age, trade was done by direct barter. Eventually, Viking traders obtained a great deal of trade silver and Arabic coins, which then was used to buy goods. Vikings established home bases and trade centers in both Dublin, Ireland and York, England. The things they bought were usually luxury goods or materials that they couldn't find easily in their own lands. In return, they sold items like honey, tin, wheat, wool, wood, iron, fur, leather, fish and walrus ivory. Everywhere they went, the Vikings bought and sold slaves too.</p>
<p><b>Invade:</b> To enter and occupy land. Kingdom an area ruled by a king.</p> <p><b>Longship:</b> A long, wooden, narrow boat used by the Vikings.</p> <p><b>Outlawed:</b> Having all property taken away and no longer being able to live in the community.</p> <p><b>Pagans:</b> A religion where many gods and goddesses are worshipped.</p> <p><b>Runes:</b> The Vikings used letters called runes. They are imitations of the Latin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>How did the Saxons view the Vikings after the raid on Lindisfarne?</b></li> </ul> <p>Lindisfarne monastery was an important centre for Christians at the time. Anglo Saxons had accepted and converted into Christianity. The Vikings raided Lindisfarne in AD 793, an event that caused shook England do to the symbolic, religious importance of the island, is often seen as the beginning of Viking presence in England.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>How should we view the Vikings?</b></li> </ul> <p>The Vikings were tradesmen, farmers, seafarers, traders, and warriors from the Nordic countries during the Viking Era, which lasted from approximately 800 CE to 1050 CE. Vikings embarked on expeditions to other parts of Europe and beyond to trade and form new settlements, but also to plunder. The Vikings founded many cities and colonies, including Dublin in Ireland and the region of Normandy in France. The Norwegian Vikings are characterised by their courageous, fatalistic outlook,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why have the Vikings gained such a bad reputation?</b></li> </ul> <p>One of the reasons the Vikings are viewed so negatively is that their violence could seem wanton or irrational. Part of that lies in the paucity of documentation of what the Vikings actually did during their raids. To many at the time—clerics in particular—attacking a monastery or church would have seemed irrational.</p>

letters used in most of Europe during the Viking era. The Latin letters are the ones we use today.

**Chainmail-** A type of armour used by some Viking warriors. This consisted of lots of little metal rings all joined together. This would be quite expensive and very heavy to wear though. Most warriors would have had a simple helmet, shield and an axe or sword.

**Figurehead-** This was placed on the front and/or back of the longboats and could often be taken off. A scary one (usually a dragon) might be put on to scare the spirit of an enemy away, or a simple design put on to show that they came in peace.

**Karl -** The Viking name for everyday people like farmers, craftsmen, sailors and warriors.

**Jarl-** A powerful Viking who owned land, employed people to work for them and may have kept slaves. They were more powerful than others, but not as powerful as a King or Chieftain.

**Danelaw-** An area of land that the Vikings controlled in England by law. This was roughly between London and the river Mersey.

**Chieftain -** The head of a tribe or clan

The Vikings rampaged through the island of Lindisfarne, killing monks and stealing gold and silver in the process.

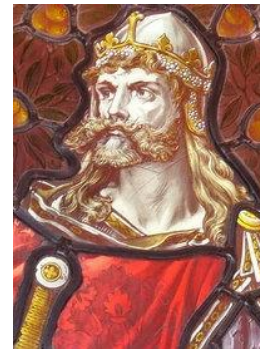
- The passage describing the Viking raid on Lindisfarne calls them 'heathens' and likens them to evil.

which made them born risk-takers. The raiding groups seem to have had an incredible ability to shrug off losses, whether in land battles or on dangerous sea expeditions.

### Significant Individuals



Edward the Confessor



Harald Hardrada



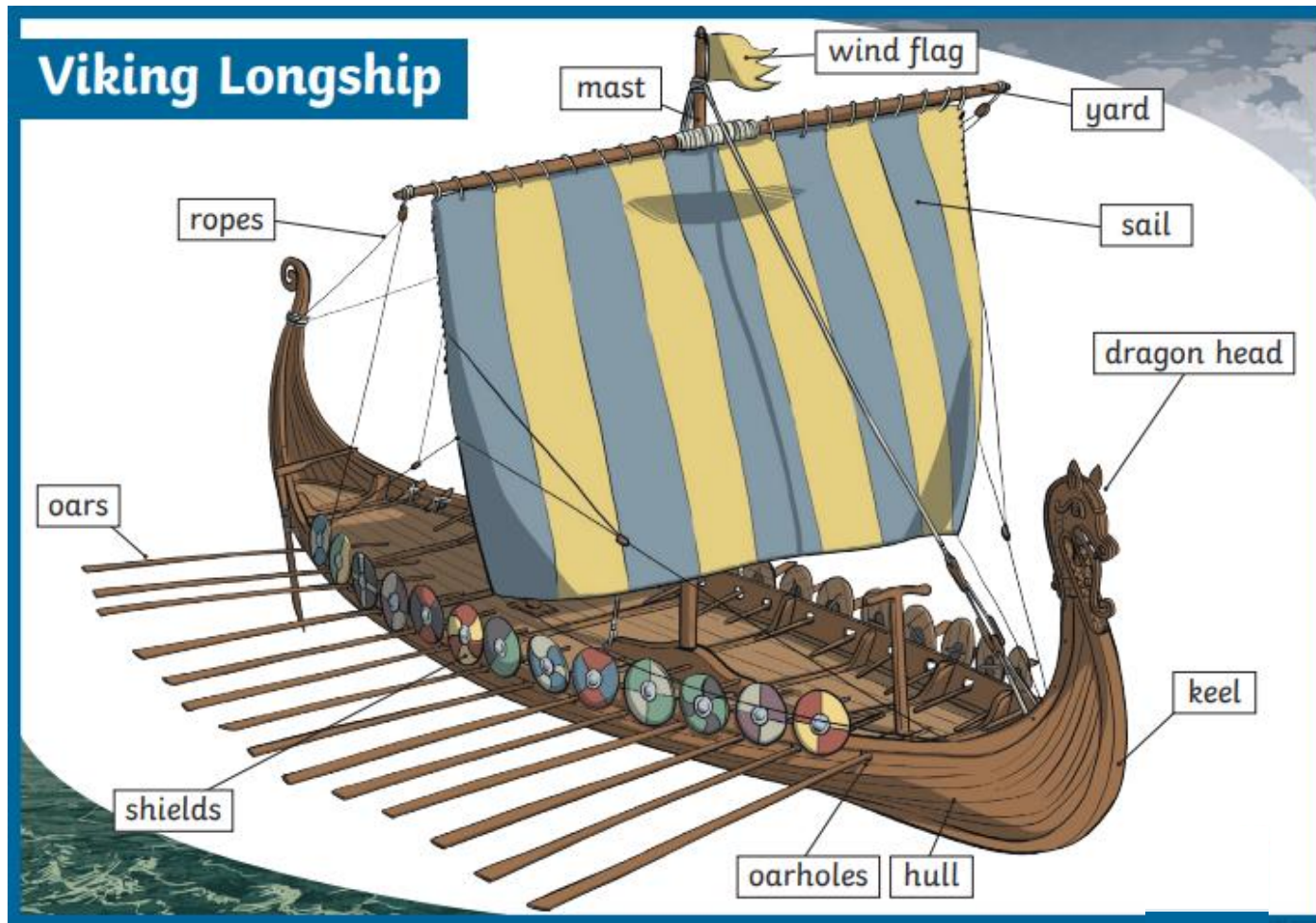
King Athelstan

AD 1042 – Edward the Confessor became King. He was known as 'the Confessor' because he led a very religious life and was very kind and thoughtful.

He is best known as Hardrada, meaning 'hard ruler'. Known for: Harald became king of Norway in 1045, first ruling jointly with his nephew Magnus and then solely from 1047. He unsuccessfully laid claim to the throne of Denmark and, in 1066, led one of the most famous Viking invasions of England.

Athelstan in Vikings is a former Christian monk, who was a victim at the raid of Lindisfarne in 793. Both Athelstan's have come into contact with the invading Vikings. He later returned to Wessex with the invading Vikings and after witnessing the death and destruction, he resumed his Christian faith.

The Vikings were fierce warriors from Scandinavia, an area in Northern Europe. They were most powerful in the years 700–1100 CE. The Vikings were champion ship-builders, and their longboats voyaged all around the coasts of Europe and even to the Americas. Some of the voyages were violent raids, where gangs of warriors would attack towns and villages along the coast or by rivers. They would kill anyone who fought them and carry off treasure and slaves. Other voyages were peaceful, as the Vikings explored new lands to live and trade in.





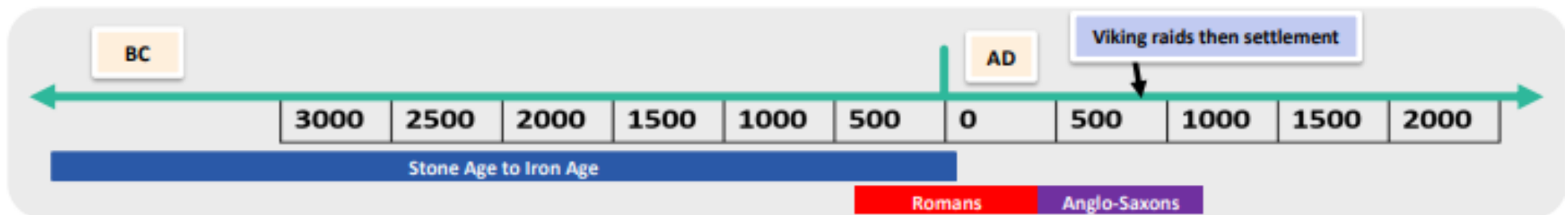


## Useful Websites

[Who were the Vikings? from bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk)  
[How did the Vikings Fight? from bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk)  
[The Viking invasion, Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and the Danelaw from bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk)  
[Vikings and the Danelaw from thedockyards.com](http://thedockyards.com)  
[Viking trade and exploration from bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk)  
[Map of Viking trade routes from rmg.co.uk](http://rmg.co.uk)

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/general-history/10-facts-about-the-vikings/>

<https://www.history.com/news/6-viking-leaders-you-should-know>



**Timeline: The Viking Age (793–1066 AD)**