

Knowledge Organiser - Year 4 - Spring 2 - The Vikings (History)

Who were the Vikings? The Vikings (also known as Norsemen) came from the countries we now call Norway, Sweden and Denmark. This area is known as Scandinavia.



793	First Viking attack happens in Dorset
793	Vikings attack the monastery of Lindisfarne (Northumbria)
866-77	Invasion of the Great Danish (Viking) Army
867	The Vikings kill rival Saxon king of Northumbria and capture Jorvik
886	England is divided - The Saxons retain the west, while the east was to be Viking territory.
927	Athelstan, king of Wessex, takes York from the Vikings.
954	Eric Bloodaxe, the last Viking king in England, is forced out of Jorvik (York)

Life as a Viking - Some Vikings came to Britain as raiders. This meant they would attack monasteries and churches in search of treasure. However, not all Vikings were vicious raiders and many were skilled craftsmen and farmers. When a Viking produced something they did not need, they would sell it to a trader. Viking traders travelled all over Europe and Asia. They bought goods and materials such as silver, silk, spices, wine, jewellery, glass and pottery.



Key Vocabulary and Spellings

Chieftain - The leader of a village/group of people.

Danelaw - The area of England ruled by the Vikings

Longships - A Viking ship with a sail and oars, also called a dragon-ship

Monastery - The building where monks live

Pagan - A person who believed in many gods. The Vikings were initially Pagans but converted to Christianity.

Runes - The name given to the Viking alphabet

Trader - A person who sells goods

Jorvik - A city we know now as York. This was the capital city of Danelaw.

Valhalla - The Vikings idea of heaven, knowing they might end up there encouraged them to embrace the dangers of the battlefield.

How did the Vikings travel to Britain? The

Vikings travelled on sleek and fast longships.

They were designed to travel up narrow rivers could hold up to 120 men. On the front, was the head of a fierce creature to frighten the spirits of the land.

The Vikings were clever explorers and used the sun, stars, wind and knowledge passed on by their ancestors to find their way to new lands.

Vikings Women - Viking women were treated very different to other women of this time. Viking women enjoyed a high degree of social freedom. They could own property, ask for a divorce if not treated properly, and they shared responsibility for running farms. Viking women did not become warriors but were very glamorous with their long hair, beads and jewellery. Did you know? The brighter the clothes worn by a Viking woman, the richer she was.