



# History – The Vikings and The Anglo Saxons (Year 6)



## Key Vocabulary

**Invaders** – a person or group that invades a country, region, or other place.

**Invasion** - an unwelcome intrusion into another's domain.

**Settler** - a person or group of people who visit another place and stay.

**Long ship** - the type of vessel used by the Vikings.

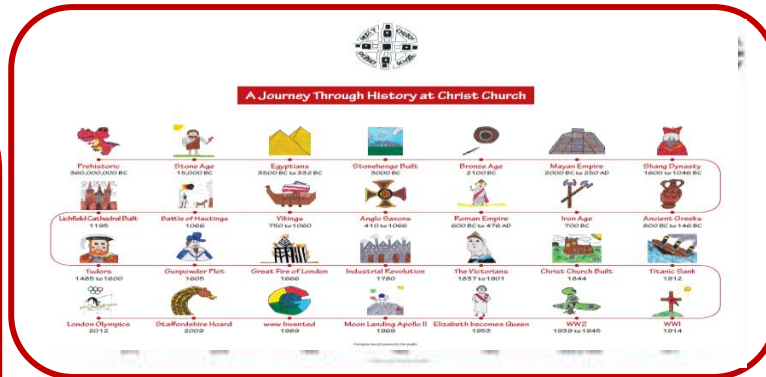
**Monastries** – Lindisfarne – a holy place of worship, which was home to peaceful monks, precious treasure and valuable holy books.

**Valhalla** - a majestic, enormous hall located in Asgard, ruled over by Odin. Where heroes who die in battle go to.

**Berserkers** - wild, vicious warriors – wore animal skins and fought like animals in battle – howled and growled like wolves. Strong belief in their Gods, so were not afraid of dying,

**Danelaw** - land given to the Vikings by King Alfred The Great.

**Dangeld** - money or payment given to the Vikings to keep them at bay.



## Vikings – successful raiders

What made the Vikings successful raiders? There are a number of factors:

**Gods and beliefs** – Odin was the main God and warriors who died bravely in battle were sent to Valhalla.

**Attacks** – they often used surprise tactics and were fierce, brutal warriors. They often didn't destroy places in their entirety – they left enough so that they could easily rebuild it themselves.

**Weapons and armour** – during battles they would use a long sword, a shield, chain mail, a spear and an axe.

**Longships** – these are swift, large vessels, which contained smaller boats so that the invaders could get right up to shore. The stars and the tides were studied to ensure effective attacks.

## Gods and Goddesses

Viking gods and goddesses all had their own personalities. There are many different ones.

The chief gods were Odin, Thor and Frey.

**Odin** - the god of war and wisdom.

**Thor** – the god of thunder and protector of mankind.

**Frey** – the god of fertility and generosity.

When a warrior died bravely on a battlefield, they were believed to be carried to Valhalla by warrior women called Valkyries. By the 11<sup>th</sup> century, most Viking lands had converted to Christianity and the old gods were forgotten.

## Long House

Large, mostly open-plan buildings, which were built from wood and thatch. Inside, there were sleeping areas, cooking stations and specific places to keep tools and weapons.



## Anglo Saxons

Britain before the Vikings invaded

The Anglo-Saxons lived in Britain prior to and at the time of the Viking invasion.

They believed in many superstitions and lucky charms to protect them

Many men were farmers and the boys collected firewood. The women weaved and cooked while the girls collected eggs.


## Alfred The Great

Alfred The Great was the most famous Anglo-Saxon king.

He successfully defended his kingdom, Wessex, against The Vikings. He was a fair ruler which earned him the title 'The Great'. In 870 he fought nine battles against The Vikings. Alfred died in 899.



## Key Events

Viking Timeline			<b>AD 700:</b> The Viking age begins.	<b>AD 793:</b> First invasion by the Vikings. They raided monasteries on the coast including Lindisfarne, off the coast of Northumbria.
<b>AD 794:</b> First raids on Scotland and Ireland.	<b>AD 865:</b> Great Viking army from Denmark invades England	<b>AD 866:</b> Danes capture York (which the Viking called <u>Jorvik</u> ) and make it their kingdom (land ruled by a king)	<b>AD 876:</b> Vikings from Denmark, Norway and Sweden settle permanently in England.	<b>AD 886:</b> King Alfred the Great defeats the Vikings but allows them to settle in Eastern England.
<b>AD 954:</b> Eric <u>Bloodaxe</u> , the last king of <u>Jorvik</u> , is thrown out of York	<b>AD 1001:</b> Vikings land in America and establish a settlement.	<b>AD 1014:</b> King Canute (Cnut) of Denmark becomes King of England.	<b>AD 1066:</b> Battle of Hastings occurred; William I (the Conqueror) crowned King of England.	<b>AD 1100:</b> End of the Viking age.



## Impacts



We still use words from the Anglo-Saxons. These words are called Old English, such as bath, house, kind, needle and many more.

The arrival of Saint Augustine in 597 converted most of England to Christianity.

The Vikings helped to develop the building of ships which allowed travel over greater distances.

Some of the laws we have today come from The Vikings system e.g. don't kill and don't steal.

Vikings are believed to have invented the style of comb that we use today as well as grooming items (tweezers and razors).

## Staffordshire Hoard

The Staffordshire Hoard is the largest find of Anglo-Saxon gold and silver metalwork found to date. It is made up of over 3500 pieces. It was discovered in 2009 in a field in the village of Hammerwich. This location was in Mercia. The hoard contains objects such as swords, a helmet and many more. The whole hoard is believed to be worth £3.2 million.

