



THE VIKINGS

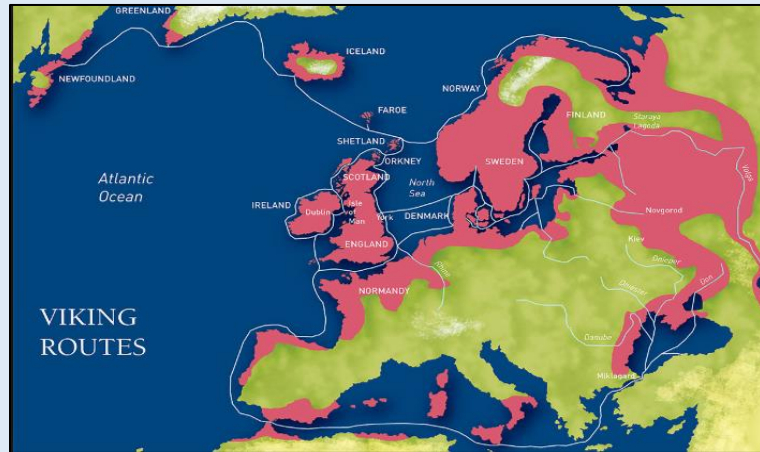
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Diagram – Map of Viking Routes

I will be able to:

- To know who the Vikings were and understand where they came from
- To place the Viking period on a time line in relation to other periods of history
- To understand why the Vikings invaded and settled along the coast of Great Britain
- To understand the importance of trade to the Vikings



Map of Viking Routes

The Vikings came from the Scandinavian countries of Norway, Sweden and Denmark. The time between 787AD and 1050AD is known as the time of the Vikings. Initially, they settled in northern Scotland and eastern England, also establishing the city of Dublin in Ireland. Around 1000AD, some Vikings settled in North America, but did not stay long. They also travelled to southern Spain and Russia, and traded as far as Turkey.

Key vocabulary

- Anglo-Saxons** - The main group of people living in Britain when the Vikings invaded.
- Danegeld** - Money paid to Vikings to stop them from raiding.
- Danelaw** - The area in Britain that the Danish Vikings ruled over.
- Futhark** - The Viking alphabet.
- Knarr** - A Viking ship used for long voyages and trading because it had lots of storage space.
- Longship** - A Viking ship used for fighting and carrying out raids.
- Monastery** - A place where people who have dedicated their lives to religion, such as monks or nuns live.
- Norsemen** - The name given to people living in Scandinavia at the time of the Vikings. It means 'men of the North'.
- Pagan** - A person who believes in many gods.
- Plunder** - Take loot during a raid, often causing damage at the same time.
- Raid** - A surprise attack.
- Rune** - A letter from the alphabet used by Vikings. There were only 16.
- Saga** - A long Viking poem, which tells the stories of warriors and heroes.
- Scandinavia** - The countries of Norway, Sweden and Denmark. This is the area Vikings came from.
- Trade** - Sell items for money, or swap them for other items.
- Treaty** - An agreement made between two or more people, groups or countries.
- Valhalla** - The place Vikings believed they would go to after death if they died fighting bravely in battle.

Life in the Viking Times

Scandinavia		The Vikings descended from all over Scandinavia (now Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Denmark). The terrain of Scandinavia was not great for farming, so Vikings left their homeland in search of more fertile lands.	Where? Northern Europe	The Vikings were also known by the name 'Norsemen.'
Viking Longships		The Vikings had advanced sailing and navigational skills for the time. They were aided by their longboats, which were long, narrow wooden vessels. These could be sailed in both deep and shallow water.	When? The longship first appeared in the 9th Century	The methods used in building longships are still used today!
Norse Runes		The Vikings spoke in a language called Norse, and had their own alphabet system (futhark) made up of symbols called Runes. The original futhark had 24 letters, although this was later expanded. Runes were regarded as sacred.	How? Vikings would scribe on wood, bone and stone.	The word 'futhark' comes from the first 6 letters of the Viking alphabet.
Danelaw		King Alfred the Great defeated the Vikings in 878 AD, and had them sign a treaty, which governed that the Vikings stick to their own land in north and east England – this section of land became known as the Danelaw.	Where? North and East England	The Vikings did not give up on ruling all of England, and eventually did!
Jorvik		The Vikings invaded York and renamed it Jorvik. Here, a settlement was formed, which reigned prosperously for over 100 years, until Eric Bloodaxe was expelled in 954 AD.	Where? York, UK	Many streets in York end in 'gate', the Viking word for 'street.'
Valhalla and Odin		Vikings believed that when they died in battle, half of them would go to an enormous, majestic hall called Valhalla. This is where the king of the gods lived, named Odin.	What? Vikings believed the other ha	The other half were believed to descend to goddess Freyja's field: Folkvangr.
Battle of Stamford Bridge		This battle took place in the village of Stamford Bridge, in the east riding of Yorkshire. King Harold of England defeated a Viking army led by Harald Hardrada.	When? 25/09/1066 – widely considered the end of the Viking era	Harold's army was defeated only 3 weeks later at the Battle of Hastings.
Viking Homes		Vikings lived in long rectangular houses made with upright timbers. They used woven sticks covered with mud to keep out the rain and were often one room with a central fire.	How? Smoke escaped through a hole in the roof.	Animals and people often lived at different ends of the same building.
Weapons		According to custom, Vikings were permitted (and encouraged) to carry a weapon at all times. Weapons included bow and arrows, spears, knives, swords, axes and slings.	How? Bow and arrows were made from yew, ash, or elm.	Grand, well-finished weapons were seen as a sign of wealth and prestige amongst Vikings.

Viking Timeline

787-789 AD – The Vikings begin their attacks on Britain. 840 AD – Viking settlers establish the city of Dublin in Ireland. 866 AD – Danish Vikings establish a kingdom in York, England. 878-886 AD – King Alfred divides England under the Danelaw Act, granting Vikings north & east England. 900-911 AD – The Vikings raid the Mediterranean, and found Normandy in France. 981 AD – Eric the Red discovers Greenland. 1000 AD – Leif Erikson explores the coast of North America. 1013 AD – The Danes conquer England. From 1028, Knut rules. 1066 AD – Vikings, led by Harald Hardrada, are defeated at Stamford Bridge.

