

Overview:

During this sequence of learning, pupils will find out about Viking raids and why the Vikings have such a bad reputation. They will find out that they were settlers as well as raiders and how excavations have revealed how they lived. They will also find out about the Vikings as traders throughout the world.

What should I already know?

- Pre-history is divided into Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age, reflecting the materials used to create weapons and tools
- The Celts infiltrated Britain between 500 and 100 BC.
- The Romans invaded Britain in 55 BC and left in AD 410.
- There was British resistance from individuals such as Boudicca.
- The Angles, Saxons, Jutes and Frisians invaded Britain during the 5th and 6th centuries AD and the area of land they conquered slowly became known as England.
- People's lives changed when Christianity came to Britain.
- The Vikings invaded Britain from 790 which eventually lead to the formation of Danelaw.
- There were 6 main methods of keeping law and order in Anglo-Saxon times.

Vocabulary:

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| bias | When a person prefers an idea and possibly does not give equal chance to a different idea. |
| raid | A sudden attack or invasion. |
| invade | To enter as an enemy, by force, in order to conquer or plunder. |
| resistance | An act or instance of opposing. |
| settlement | An area where people lived. |
| trader | A person whose business is buying and selling such as a merchant. |
| religious | What you believe about human beings' relationship to a higher power (or God). |
| excavation | To expose to view by digging away a covering. |
| treaty | An agreement between various states or countries, often made at the end of a conflict which may reshape boundaries. |
| Danelaw | A historical name given to the part of England in which the laws of the Danes held sway. |

Historical Skills:

- Use evidence to offer reasons for different interpretations of events.
- Know that people in the past represent events/ideas in a way to persuade others.
- Select relevant evidence to address historical questions.
- Accurately use dates to describe historical events.

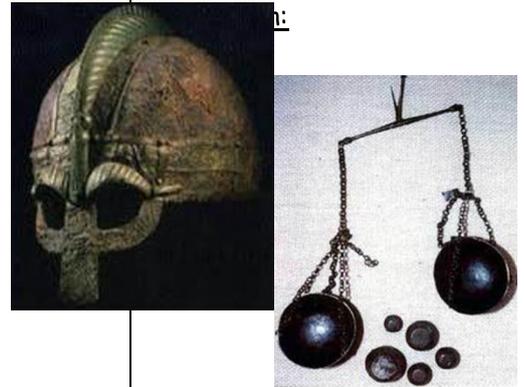
What will I know by the end of the unit?



- The Vikings are generally seen as ruthless invaders but they were also settlers and traders.
- The evidence varies as some of the recounts, e.g. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, were written by the Saxons who disliked the Vikings. Therefore, they described them as hungry wolves that shamelessly robbed islands and rampaged with fury.
- The first Viking raids were for riches; one of the earliest known invasions was the raid on Lindisfarne in AD 793. This raid involved the Vikings launching attacks on a number of monasteries and looting all of their valuables. This was not the first attack launched by the Vikings but is the one that is remembered.

- By the mid 9th Century, the Vikings had started to settle throughout Britain, including East Anglia.
- In 871 King Alfred the Great of Wessex defeated the Danish army and an area called Danelaw, as recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, was then created which had separate Danish laws.
- Excavations have changed our views of what the Vikings were like, particularly the evidence found from Jorvik. In 1970, while building a new shopping centre, evidence of Viking homes, clothing and jewellery were found well preserved in the ground.
- There are three main groups of people that settled in Britain - the Romans, the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings. We can tell this by the names of towns and villages.
- There are many arguments for how we should remember the Vikings. In terms of the Vikings being remembered as favourable: family life was important, they held markets where they traded goods and they made valuable jewellery showing skilled craftsmanship. In terms of remembering them in a more negative way: they attacked innocent monks in their monasteries, they fought wildly and they captured people and kept them as slaves.
- Athelstan was the first King of England and Alfred the Great's grandson. He reigned between 925 and 939 AD. Before this time, each community had their own leader.
- Edward the Confessor, the last Anglo-Saxon King of England died in 1066. This marked one of the most unstable periods in British History as many claimants battled it out for the crown because he didn't have any heirs to the throne.

Evidence found from Jorvik



Viking helmet. Weighing scales found showed evidence of trading.

Where did they come from?

