

Vanquishing Vikings

Who Were the Vikings?

The Vikings came from the countries of Norway, Sweden and Denmark. They came to Britain as it was warmer than their countries and the land was better for growing crops and rearing animals. They had a reputation for being warriors but some Vikings just came to settle on the land. They were skilled at crafting and made beautiful metalwork and wooden carvings.

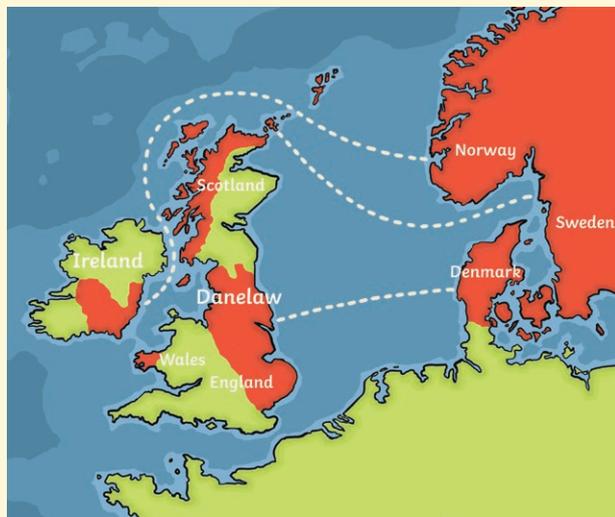


The Vikings first came to Britain in AD 787 and raided religious buildings called monasteries for their treasures, such as jewels, gold and books. In AD 865, the Vikings came to Britain again, this time not just to raid it but also to conquer the land.



Where Did the Vikings Settle?

Over the next few years, the Vikings battled to take over land and they conquered much of the east of Britain. These lands were known as Danelaw and included Northumbria, East Anglia and the Five Boroughs.



A map showing where the Vikings settled in Britain

Viking Money

The Vikings didn't use money as we do today when they first came to Britain. They were only interested in coins for their value in gold and silver. However, once the Vikings came to Britain, they started to make their own money. Danegeld was the name given to payments made to the Vikings to stop them from raiding!





Viking Clothing and Jewellery

The Vikings' clothing was all handmade from wool, linen and leather. Clothes needed to be practical, so they were able to work and go about their daily lives, but also needed to keep them warm.

Viking jewellery was made from precious metals, such as gold and silver, and even animal bones. Vikings wore rings, brooches, bracelets and necklaces and many featured animal designs.



A small Viking brooch made from bronze



Viking Gods

The gods were a huge part of Viking society. The main god was Odin who created Midgard, home of the humans, and Asgard, home of the gods. Thor was another important god. He was the god of thunder who, Vikings believed, protected their world. He had a powerful hammer that was said to be able to crush mountains.



Viking Fun Facts



Vikings did not actually wear horns on their helmets.

- Vikings did not actually wear horns on their helmets. Instead, they wore skull caps to protect their heads from any impact.
- The name 'Viking' means 'pirate raid' in the Old Norse language.
- As there were no banks in Viking times, people would bury their valuables to keep them safe.
- When a Viking chief died, his body was put on a burning ship with his jewels and gold and sometimes even his servants!

Questions

1. Which of the following is **not** a country that Vikings came from? Tick **one**.

- Norway
 Germany
 Sweden
 Denmark

2. In what year did the Vikings first come to Britain?

3. Draw lines to match each word to its definition:

Danelaw	•	•	god of thunder
Thor	•	•	payment to stop the Vikings from raiding
Danegeld	•	•	home of the Viking gods
Asgard	•	•	lands conquered by the Vikings

4. What materials did Vikings use to make jewellery? Tick **two**.

- animal bone
 leather
 linen
 silver

5. What did Vikings raid when they first came to Britain? Tick **one**.

- houses
 farms
 factories
 monasteries

6. According to the text, give **one** reason why the Vikings came to Britain.

7. **They had a reputation for being warriors but some Vikings just came to settle on the land**

What do you think the word 'reputation' means?

8. What **three** features of a non-chronological report can you identify?
How do these features help to make the text easier to read and understand?

Vanquishing Vikings

Who Were the Vikings?

The Vikings came from the countries that we now call Scandinavia, including Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Vikings were tradespeople – they travelled the seas to find things that they could take back home with them, such as silks and spices.



They were also raiders and first came to Britain in AD 787, when they raided monasteries for their treasures, such as jewels, gold and books. In AD 865, the Vikings came to Britain again,

this time not just to raid it but also to conquer the land. It is believed that they came to Britain as it was warmer than their countries and the land was better for growing crops and rearing animals. Although they had a reputation for being warriors, some Vikings did come peacefully to settle and live off the land.



Where Did the Vikings Settle?

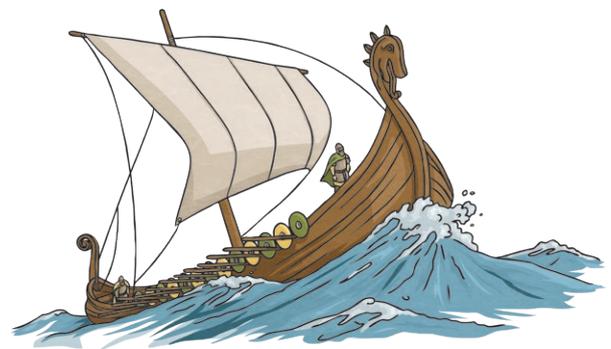
In the years that followed AD 865, the Vikings battled to take over land and they conquered much of the east of Britain. These lands were known as Danelaw and included Northumbria, East Anglia and the Five Boroughs: the towns of Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Stamford and Lincoln.



A map showing where the Vikings settled in Britain

Viking Money

The Vikings didn't use money as we do today when they first came to Britain. They were only interested in coins for their value in gold and silver. However, as the Anglo-Saxons did use money, once the Vikings came to Britain, they started to make their own. Danegeld was the name given to payments made to the Vikings to stop them from raiding!





Viking Clothing and Jewellery

The Vikings' clothing was all handmade from wool, linen and leather. Occasionally, they may have used silk, which came from abroad from the Viking raids. Clothes needed to be practical, so they were able to work and go about their daily lives, but also needed to keep them warm and dry.

Vikings were also skilled at crafting and made beautiful and ornate metalwork and wooden carvings. Viking jewellery was made from precious metals, such as gold and silver, and even animal bones.



A small Viking brooch made from bronze

Viking Gods



The gods were a huge part of Viking society. The main god was Odin who created Midgard, home of the humans, and Asgard, home of the gods. Thor, another important god, was the god of thunder who, Vikings believed, protected their world. He had a powerful hammer that was said to be able to crush mountains.

If a Viking died bravely in battle, it was believed that they would go to Valhalla, a magnificent hall in Asgard where they could eat, drink and celebrate.



Viking Fun Facts



Vikings did not actually wear horns on their helmets.

- Vikings did not actually wear horns on their helmets. Instead, they wore simple skull caps to protect their heads from any impact.
- The name 'Viking' means 'pirate raid' in the Old Norse language.
- As there were no banks in Viking times, people would bury their valuables to keep them safe.
- When a Viking chief died, his body was put on a burning ship with his jewels and gold and sometimes even his servants!

Questions

1. Which of the countries below are part of Scandinavia? Tick **three**?

- Norway
 Germany
 Sweden
 Denmark

2. In what year did the Vikings first come to Britain?

3. Draw lines to match each word to its definition:

Danelaw	●	● god of thunder
Thor	●	● payment to stop the Vikings from raiding
Danegeld	●	● home of the Viking gods
Asgard	●	● lands conquered by the Vikings

4. What does 'Viking' mean in Old Norse?

5. What is Valhalla?

6. According to the text, why did the Vikings come to Britain? Give **two** reasons.

7. **Although they had a reputation for being warriors, some Vikings did come peacefully to settle and live off the land.**

What do you think the word 'reputation' means?

8. What **three** features of a non-chronological report can you identify? How do these features help to make the text easier to read and understand?

Answers

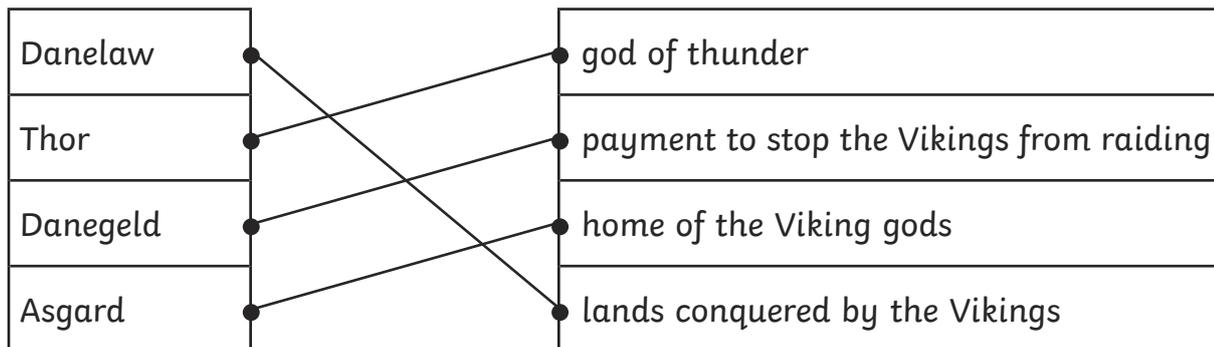
1. Which of the countries below are part of Scandinavia? Tick **three**?

- Norway**
 Germany
 Sweden
 Denmark

2. In what year did the Vikings first come to Britain?

AD 787

3. Draw lines to match each word to its definition:



4. What does 'Viking' mean in Old Norse?

It means 'pirate raid'.

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If a Viking died bravely in battle, it was believed that they would go to Valhalla, a magnificent hall in Asgard where they could eat, drink and celebrate.

6. According to the text, why did the Vikings come to Britain? Give **two** reasons.

It was warmer than the countries they came from and the land was better for farming and rearing animals.

7. **Although they had a reputation for being warriors, some Vikings did come peacefully to settle and live off the land.**

What do you think the word 'reputation' means?

Reputation means beliefs or opinions about someone or something that lots of people have.

8. What **three** features of a non-chronological report can you identify? How do these features help to make the text easier to read and understand?

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Vanquishing Vikings

Who Were the Vikings?



The Vikings came from the countries that we now call Scandinavia: Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Vikings were tradespeople – they travelled the seas to find silks, spices and jewellery, among other things, that could be taken back home.



They were also raiders and first came to Britain in AD 787, when they raided monasteries for their treasures, such as jewels, gold and books. The monks that lived there were unarmed and, unlike the majority of people living in Britain at the time who were Christians, the Vikings were pagans and so did not think it was wrong to steal from monasteries.

In AD 865, the Vikings came to Britain again, this time not just to raid it but also to conquer the land. It is believed that they came to Britain as it was warmer than their countries and the land was better for growing crops and rearing animals. Although they had a reputation for being warriors, some Vikings did come peacefully to settle and live off the land.

Where Did the Vikings Settle?

In the years that followed AD 865, the Vikings battled to take over land.

By AD 874, they had conquered all but one of the kingdoms. This kingdom was Wessex and was ruled by Alfred the Great.

After many years of fighting, an imaginary line was used to divide England between the Anglo-Saxon lands and the Viking lands, which were known as Danelaw. The line ran from London in the south to Chester in the north west.



Viking Money

The Vikings didn't use money as we do today when they first came to Britain. However, as the Anglo-Saxons did use money, once the Vikings came to Britain, they started to make their own. Silver jewellery would be cut into smaller pieces – known as hacksilver – and used as currency. Traders would carry small weighing scales around with them to weigh it. The silver penningar (or penny) was their only coin.



Viking Clothing and Jewellery

The Vikings' clothing was all handmade from wool, linen and leather. Occasionally, they may have used silk, which came from abroad from the Viking raids. Clothes needed to be practical, so they were able to work and go about their daily lives, but also needed to keep them warm and dry.

Vikings were also skilled at crafting and renowned for making beautiful and ornate metalwork and wooden carvings. Viking jewellery was made from precious metals, such as gold and silver, or even animal bones, and often featured intricate designs. The most common design was that of a serpent.



A small Viking brooch made from bronze



Viking Gods

The gods were an integral part of Viking society. Odin was the main god who was said to have created nine realms including Midgard, realm of the humans, and Asgard, realm of the gods. Thor, another important god, was the god of thunder who, Vikings believed, protected their world. He had a powerful hammer that was able to crush mountains.

Vikings believed that if they died bravely in battle, they would go to Valhalla, a magnificent hall in Asgard where they could eat, drink and celebrate.



Viking Fun Facts



Contrary to popular belief, Vikings did not actually wear horns on their helmets.

- Vikings did not actually wear horns on their helmets. Instead, they wore simple skull caps to protect their heads from any impact.
- The name 'Viking' means 'pirate raid' in the Old Norse language.
- As there were no banks in Viking times, people would bury their valuables to keep them safe.
- When a Viking chief died, his body was put on a burning ship with his jewels and gold and sometimes even his servants!

Questions

1. Which **three** Scandinavian countries are mentioned in the text?

2. In what year did the Vikings first come to Britain? Tick **one**.

- AD 865 AD 787
 AD 874 AD 778

3. Draw lines to match each word to its definition:

Danelaw	•	• god of thunder
Thor	•	• payment to stop the Vikings from raiding
Danegeld	•	• home of the Viking gods
Asgard	•	• lands conquered by the Vikings

4. What does 'Viking' mean in Old Norse?

5. What is 'hacksilver'?

6. According to the text, why did the Vikings come to Britain? Give **two** reasons.

7. **The gods were an integral part of Viking society.**

What do you think the word 'integral' means?

8. Summarise why the Vikings chose to raid monasteries in your own words.

9. What **three** features of a non-chronological report can you identify? How do these features help to make the text easier to read and understand?

Answers

1. Which **three** Scandinavian countries are mentioned in the text?

Norway, Sweden and Denmark

2. In what year did the Vikings first come to Britain? Tick **one**.

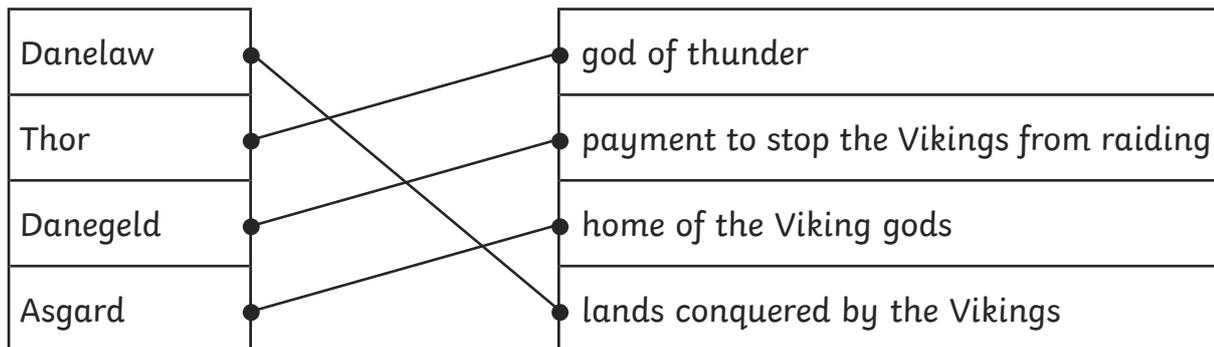
AD 865

AD 787

AD 874

AD 778

3. Draw lines to match each word to its definition:



4. What does 'Viking' mean in Old Norse?

It means 'pirate raid'.

5. What is 'hacksilver'?

It is silver jewellery cut into smaller pieces and used as currency.

6. According to the text, why did the Vikings come to Britain? Give **two** reasons.

It was warmer than the countries they came from and the land was better for farming and rearing animals.

7. **The gods were an integral part of Viking society.**

What do you think the word 'integral' means?

Integral means very important/essential/necessary.

8. Summarise why the Vikings chose to raid monasteries in your own words.

Pupils' answers should make reference to the following points: monasteries had treasures, such as jewels, gold and books; they were easy to raid as the monks that lived there were unarmed; Vikings were pagans/not Christians so did not think it was wrong to raid monasteries.

9. What **three** features of a non-chronological report can you identify? How do these features help to make the text easier to read and understand?

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