

# Why did the Vikings invade England?

## Subject Specific Vocabulary

<b>archaeologist</b>	People who work out our history by looking at artefacts that have been found.
<b>raids</b>	A sudden armed attack against it, with the aim of causing damage rather than occupying any of the enemy's land.
<b>ancestor</b>	A person from long ago from whom you are descended.
<b>longhouse</b>	A large hall like building where many Viking families would live together.
<b>berserkers</b>	Warriors that went to war wearing wolf or bear skins. They were out of control and charged fearlessly. The word 'berserk' came from it.
<b>longship</b>	The narrow boat used by Vikings to raid along coasts.
<b>Odin</b>	One of the most famous Viking Gods known for wisdom.
<b>Sagas</b>	Short Viking story written using 50 words.
<b>Scandinavia</b>	The name given to the collection of countries: Denmark, Norway and Sweden.
<b>Danelaw</b>	The name given to lands in Britain occupied by the Vikings.
<b>Settlers</b>	People who move with a group of others to live in a new country or area.
<b>Yorvik</b>	Modern day York – most important Viking city.
<b>Lindisfarne</b>	Island in Northumberland – location of 1 <sup>st</sup> Viking raid



## Exciting Books



## Sticky Knowledge about the Vikings

- The name 'Viking' means 'a pirate raid' in the Old Norse language
- The Vikings were famous for sailing huge distances from their home in Scandinavia between AD 800 and 1066 to raid and plunder, but they also traded with people from other countries. They travelled as far as Baghdad and North America. Their descendants could be found across Europe.
- Anglo-Saxon writers called them Danes, Norsemen, Northmen, the Great Army, sea rovers, sea wolves, or the heathen.
- Alfred of Wessex was the only English King to beat the Vikings. He became known as Alfred the Great.
- From around 860AD onwards, Vikings stayed, settled and prospered in Britain, becoming part of the mix of people who today make up the British nation.
- The Vikings wrote down stories known as sagas.
- When the Vikings invaded, modern day England was 4 separate Kingdoms – Northumbria, Mercia, Wessex and East Anglia. The Vikings conquered all except Wessex and made Yorvik their capital.

## Days of the week

**The names for most of the days of the week originate from Vikings.**

**Monday** – linked to the moon by the name Mani – Norse for Moon.

**Tuesday** named after the Viking God of War – Tyr.

**Wednesday** – named after Woden.

**Thursday** – named after Thor, the God of thunder.

**Friday** – named after Freya, the Goddess of love and fertility.

# Vikings: KS2 Knowledge Mat

## Subject Specific Vocabulary

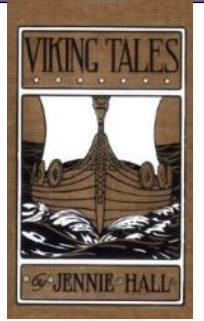
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<b>vicious</b>	To be intentionally harmful or nasty. Vikings warriors were known to be vicious.
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<b>Danelaw</b>	The name given to lands in Britain occupied by the Vikings.
<b>misconception</b>	This means mis-understanding. In Viking terms there were many misunderstandings about the Vikings.
<b>Jorvik</b>	The Viking name for the city of York. York now has a famous Viking museum called Jorvik.



## Sticky Knowledge about the Vikings

- Not all Vikings were warriors. Many came in peace and become farmers.
- The lands that the Vikings occupied were known as Danelaw.
- Not many Vikings, if any, wore horns in their helmets.
- Vikings spoke Norse, which had an alphabet made up of runes.
- Longships were designed to sail in both deep and shallow water so that they could get close to the shore so they could not be easily seen.
- Vikings were pagans and often raided monasteries, looting gold.
- The most important Viking British city was York or Jorvik as it was known by the Vikings.

## Exciting Books



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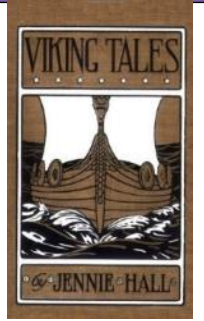
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