

Aim

• I can explain when and where the Vikings came from and say why they raided Britain.

Success Criteria

- I can order events from the time of the Vikings.
- I can create a poster containing details about who the Vikings were and what they did.

The Vikings Arrive

The Vikings came from the area of the modern Scandinavian countries (Denmark, Norway and Sweden).

They set out in boats called longships to 'go Viking' (which means to go travelling around looking for resources and land to claim as their own).

The Vikings first arrived in Britain around AD 787 and in AD 793 they raided and pillaged the monastery at Lindisfarne in Northumbria.



Glossary

Longship — a long, wooden, narrow boat used by the Vikings.

Pillage – to steal goods using violent tactics.

Raid – to suddenly attack a place.

Raiders

The Vikings came to Britain looking for lucrative new items to steal and trade. In addition they wanted land that they could take and claim as their own.

They particularly liked to raid monasteries, like the one at Lindisfarne. The monasteries were not very well protected and contained valuable goods like gold and jewels, imported foods and other useful materials.

The Vikings also stole manuscripts and bibles. These were sold back to the religious leaders who could not bear to see them lost or damaged.



Invaders and Settlers

The Vikings went on to invade Scotland and in time they began to settle and stay there.

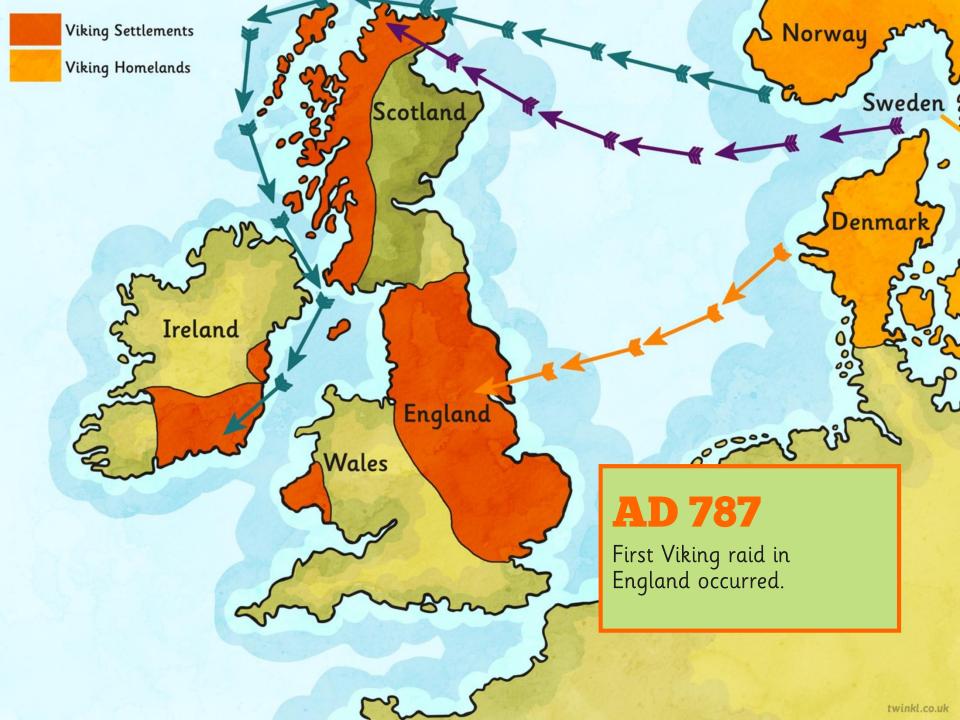
They were able to build up an army and in AD 866 they captured the city of York.

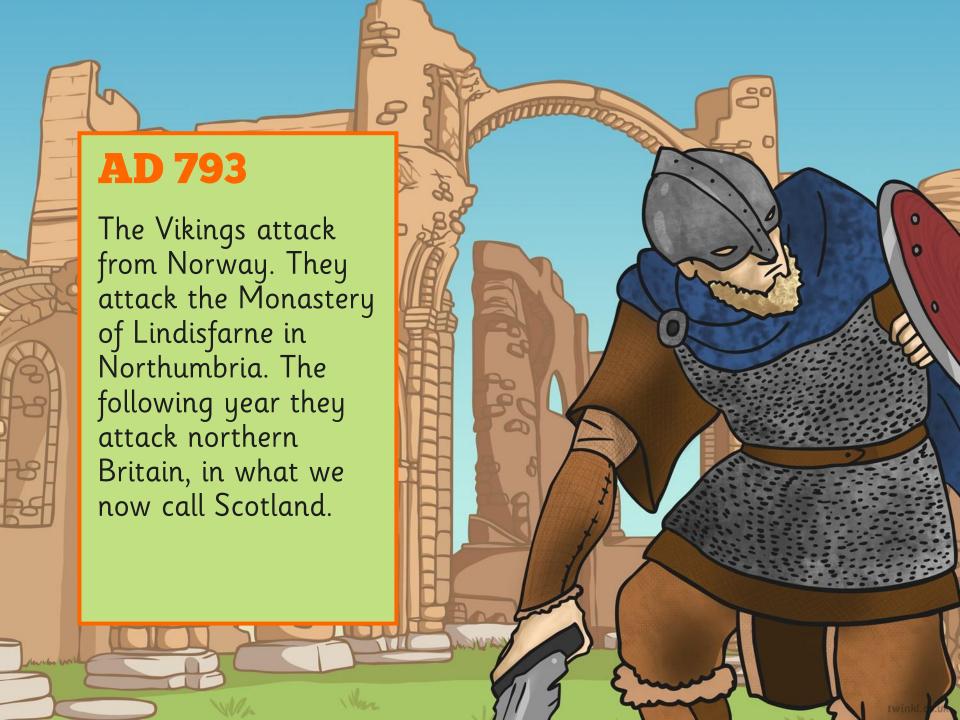
The Anglo-Saxon King Alfred the Great, who became King of Wessex in AD 871, managed to force the Vikings out of the South of England but this was short-lived.

By AD 878 the Vikings had settled permanently in England, overran Wessex and forced King Alfred into hiding. The Vikings were here to stay!









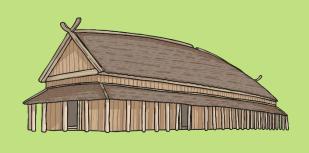




Alfred the Great becomes King of Wessex. He drives the invading Vikings from the south but they stay in the north and the east.



By this time, the Vikings had settled permanently in England, overran Wessex and forced King Alfred into hiding.



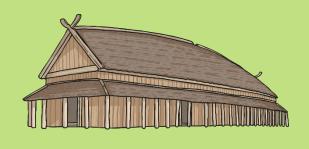


King Alfred agrees to a treaty with the Vikings. Alfred keeps the west and the Vikings are given the east which is later known as 'Danelaw'.





The Vikings establish rule over northern Scotland



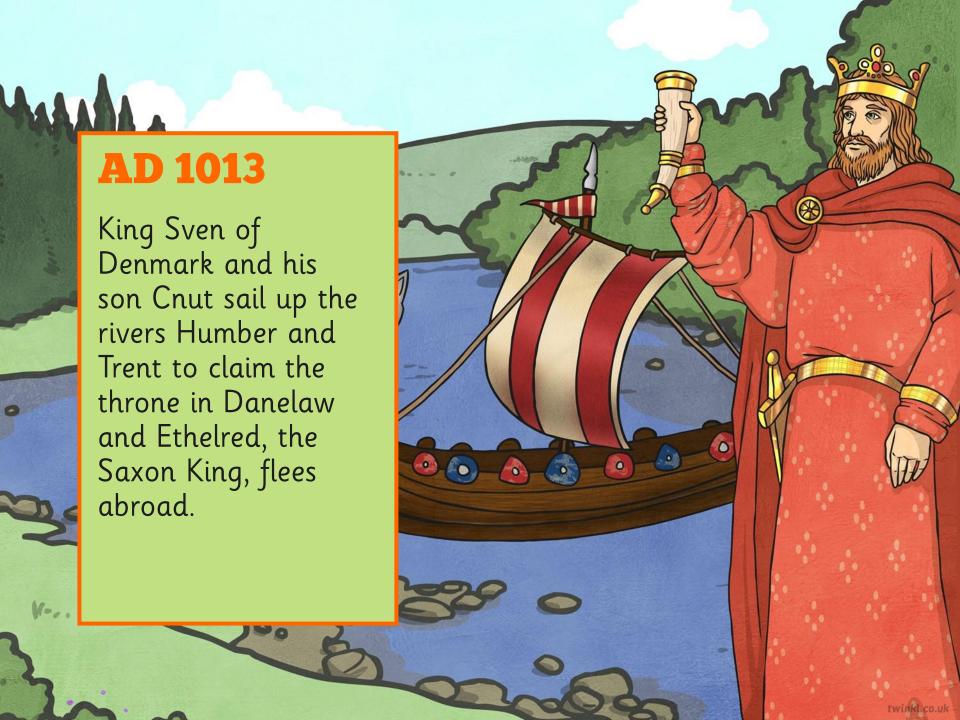




The last Viking King of Jorvick (York), Eric Bloodaxe, is forced out of York.







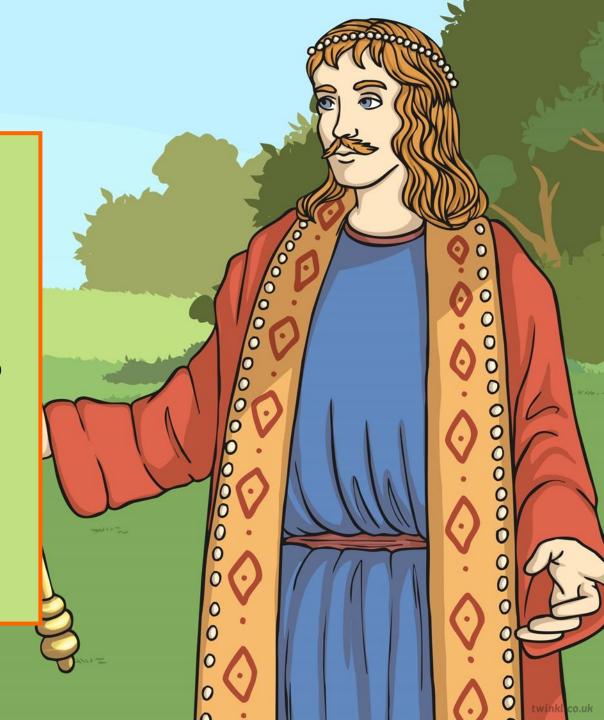
King Sven dies and Ethelred returns to rule England again.





King Ethelred dies.
His son, Edmund
Ironside, becomes
king for a few
months until he also
dies.

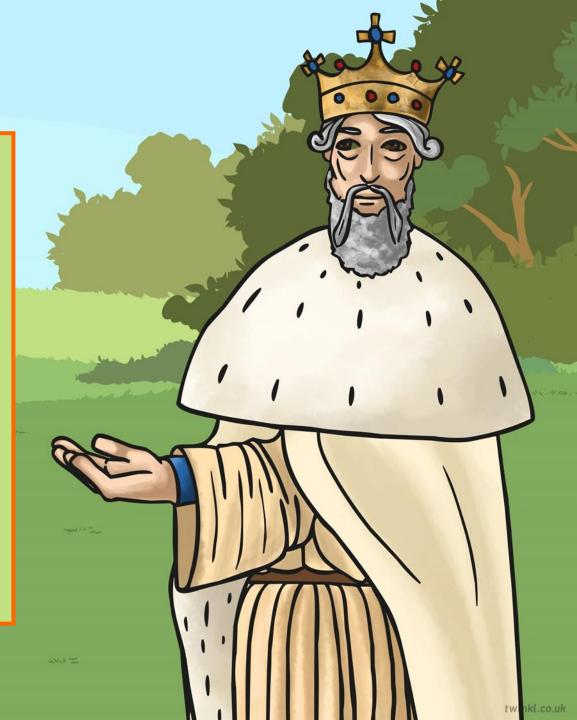
Cnut becomes King of the Danes and King of England.



King Cnut dies. His sons Harold Harefoot and Hardicanute share the ruling of England. Harold dies in 1040 and Hardicanute becomes the sole ruler of England.



Ethelred's second son, Edward is invited to return from Normandy to become the King of England. Edward was better known as 'Edward the Confessor' due to his extreme piety.



The last Anglo-Saxon king, King Harold, is defeated by William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings and Norman Britain begins.



The Vikings

Questions

Now that you have read through the information, can you answer these questions in your book?

- Who were the Vikings?
- Where did they come from?
- What did they do?
- When did they come to Britain and why?
- What else do we know about them?



Vikings and Kings



Who thinks they can act in role as a Viking warrior or an Anglo-Saxon king to answer the questions the rest of your class may choose to ask you?

Questions for a Viking Warrior

- 1. Who are the Vikings?
- 2. Where do you come from?
- 3. When did you come to Britain and why?

Or can you think of a question of your own?

Questions for an Anglo-Saxon King

- 1. Where have these Vikings come from?
- 2. How have you and your people been affected?
- 3. What have the Vikings done?

Or can you think of a question of your own?