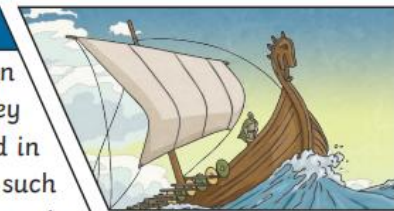


Key Vocabulary

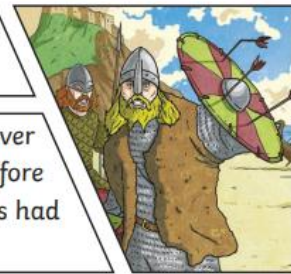
Danegeld	"Paying the Dane". King Etherlred paid the Vikings 4500kg of silver to go home but they kept returning and were paid 22,000kg of silver in Danegeld altogether.
exile	To be sent away.
invade	To enter and occupy land.
kingdom	An area ruled by a king.
longship	A long, wooden, narrow boat used by the Vikings.
outlawed	Having all property taken away and no longer being able to live in the community.
pagans	A religion where many gods and goddesses are worshipped.
pillaged	To violently steal something.
raid	A surprise attack.
wergild	A payment system used to settle disputes between a criminal and the victim or their family.

The Early Vikings

The Vikings came from the modern Scandinavian countries of Denmark, Norway and Sweden. They travelled in boats called **longships** and first arrived in Britain around AD 787. The Vikings **raided** places such as monasteries and **pillaged** expensive items to trade. They were looking for valuable goods like gold and jewels, imported foods and other useful materials.



The Vikings also wanted to claim land and tried to take over much of Britain. They **invaded** and settled in Scotland before heading south to places such as York. By AD 878 the Vikings had settled permanently in Britain.



Viking Life

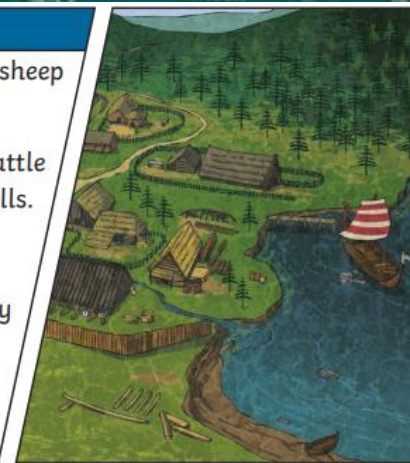
Farms - Vikings lived on farms and kept cows, pigs and sheep for milk, wool and meat.

Houses - Walls made of stone or wood. A straw roof. Wattle and daub (sticks and mud/dung) for the inside of the walls.

Jewellery - Worn to show off how rich a person was.

Pagans - Vikings arrived as **pagans** but eventually converted to Christianity.

Sagas - Vikings used rhyme to tell stories about adventures and battles against monsters.



Viking Laws and Punishments

Viking laws were not written down but passed on by word of mouth. Punishments could include fines, being semi-**outlawed**, fighting to the death, or revenge on someone who has killed a family member.

Vikings

Glossary of Useful Vocabulary

Term and Definition

A

Anglo-Saxons (noun)

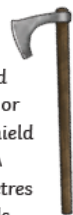
The main groups of people living in Britain at the time when the **Vikings** invaded.

archer (noun)

Someone who shoots with a bow and arrows, either for hunting animals or in battle.

axe (noun)

A common Viking weapon with a single blade on the head. A hand axe could be hidden behind a **shield** or hooked over an enemy's shield to pull it out of the way. A long axe was up to 1.5 metres long and needed two hands to swing it.



D

Dane (noun)

Someone who is from Denmark. The people of Britain called the Viking invaders 'Danes', although they were from Norway and Sweden as well as Denmark.

Danegeld (noun)

Payments of gold, silver or land given to the **Vikings** to make them go away when they came to raid a country. This was to try to avoid having to fight them.

E

Danelaw (noun)

An area of northern and eastern England that was under the control of the **Danes** from the late 9th century until the early 11th century.

exile (verb)

Send someone away from the area or country where they live. This was used as a punishment in Viking times.

F

Freyja (noun)

In **Norse** mythology, Freyja was the goddess of love, beauty, youth and fertility. When her husband was away on his travels, Freyja was said to weep tears of gold.



H

helmet (noun)

A protective head covering worn in battle and made from pieces of iron joined together. Helmets had a nose guard to protect the warrior's nose from being broken by the enemy. There is no evidence that the **Vikings** wore helmets with horns.

horn cup (noun)

A cup that **Vikings** used for drinking, made out of animal horn.

Vikings

Glossary of Useful Vocabulary

Term and Definition

I

invade (verb)

Enter a country or area using force, with the aim of taking control of it.

J

jarl (noun)

A **Norse** chief. Jarls were the most powerful people in Viking society after the **king**. They lived in the best houses and had servants.

K

king (noun)

A man who rules a country, usually because of the family he is born into.

kingdom (noun)

An area that is ruled by a **king**.

L

longhouse (noun)

A Viking home made from wood, stone or turf. The walls were made of wattle (sticks woven together and covered in mud). The roof was often thatched (covered in straw). Most longhouses were between 15 and 22 metres long.

longship (noun)

A long, narrow ship made of wood and used by the **Vikings**. It had a single, square sail, a dragon or snake head at the front and oars to use when there was not much wind. A longship could hold up to 120 people and was also known as a longboat or dragon ship.



M

monastery (noun)

A place where monks – people who have committed their lives completely to religion – live.

N

Norse (adjective)

Used to describe someone or something that is from ancient Norway or the other countries where the **Vikings** came from.

O

Odin (noun)

In **Norse** mythology, Odin was the king of the gods and god of warriors and poets. He and his brothers were said to have created the first humans. Odin was the father of **Thor**.

outlaw (noun)

Someone who has been made to live outside their community without any help or protection from others, as a punishment. Outlaws had all their belongings taken from them.

outlaw (verb)

To punish someone for a crime by making them live outside their community without any help or protection from others. This could be for a number of years or for the rest of the criminal's life.



Term and Definition

P

pagan (noun)

Someone who worships many different gods or goddesses. Viking gods included **Thor**, **Odin** and **Freyja**.

pillage (verb)

Rob somewhere or steal something in a violent way.

R

raid (verb)

Carry out a surprise attack on a place, usually with the aim of stealing.

**runes (noun)**

Letters in the system of writing used by the **Vikings**. Runes are usually made up of straight, vertical lines with diagonal lines or curves branching off them.

S

saga (noun)

A long story or poem that the **Vikings** passed down through the generations. Sagas could be about battle victories or gods and goddesses

shield (noun)

Circular piece of wood with a metal boss (handle) at the back used by Viking warriors to protect themselves in battle. Shields were hung on the walls of a Viking **longhouse** as decorations.

**spear (noun)**

Common Viking weapon with a large, broad blade made of iron on a wooden shaft (handle) usually 2 or 3 metres long. Spears were used for thrusting (pushing violently) at the enemy and for throwing.

sword (noun)

A very expensive weapon owned only by the richest **Vikings** (**kings** or **jarls**). Both edges of the sword were sharpened to make it more deadly. Swords were sometimes given a name, such as 'Leg-Biter'.



T

Thor (noun)

In **Norse** mythology, Thor, the god of thunder and lightning, was the son of **Odin**. He was said to always have a magic hammer with him, which he used in many battles.



Term and Definition

trade (verb)

To exchange one thing for another. The **Vikings** traded all over Europe and beyond, buying goods like silver, silk, jewellery and glass in return for items such as honey, wheat, wood, fur and fish.

V

Valhalla (noun)

A place **Vikings** believed they would go to if they died bravely in battle. This is where **Odin**, the king of the gods, lived.

Viking (noun)

A person from Denmark, Norway or Sweden who went to **raid** other countries in a **longship**. 'Viking' means 'a pirate raid' in the old **Norse** language. The Vikings first arrived in Britain around AD 787. In AD 793, they **raided** and **pillaged** the monastery at Lindisfarne in Northumbria.

