

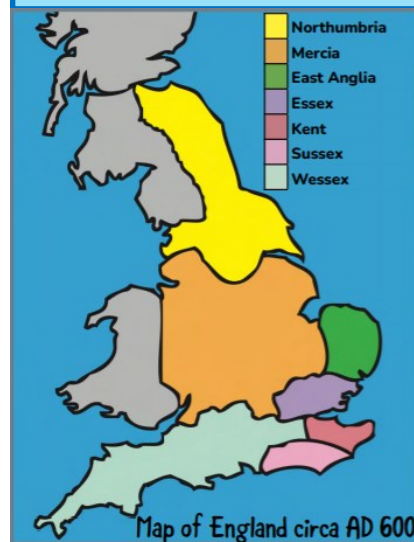
Key Vocabulary

Anglo-Saxon	The Anglo-Saxons were a group of farmer-warriors who lived in Britain over a thousand years ago.
Viking	They sailed the seas attacking many countries and took away much treasure. Viking meaning pirate.
Danelaw	An area of Northern and Eastern England that was under the control of the Danish Viking empire
Unified	United. Becoming one kingdom under the rule of one king.
Witan	A group of powerful noblemen advising the kings of England
Lindisfarne	A monastery on Holy Island which was invaded by Vikings
Norse Country	Now called Scandinavia– the countries: Norway, Sweden and Denmark
Longboat	A boat which was long and fast which could sail in shallow water.
Runes	Ancient letters used by Norse people

ƿ	a	ʀ	b	<	c	ᚳ	d	ᚱ	e	ƿ	f
x	g	h	h		i	ᚠ	j	<	k	l	l
ᚦ	m	ᚠ	n	ᚠ	o	ᚠ	p	ᚠ	q	ᚱ	r
ᚠ	s	ᚠ	t	ᚠ	u	ᚠ	v	ᚠ	w		x
ᚠ	y	ᚠ	z								

Some Vikings learnt to read and write using runes.

What Britain was like before the first Viking invasions?



By the year AD 600, there were **seven** separate kingdoms in England, each ruled by an independent king. The kings in each kingdom were advised by a group of powerful nobles called the **Witan**. The seven kingdoms were constantly battling to try and become the most powerful kingdom and kings were always striving to become the 'bretwalda' or overlord of the different kingdoms.



The Vikings came from Norway, Sweden and Denmark, a group of countries called the **Norse countries**, now known as Scandinavia.

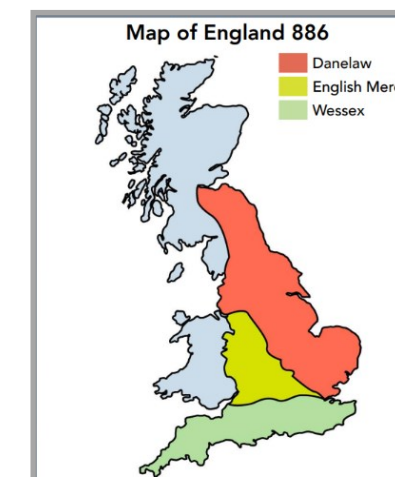
The Vikings invaded Britain to gain the riches to be had there, as well as to find farmland. Scandinavia, and especially Norway, was becoming overpopulated and there was not enough land to go around.



The Vikings used sailing as the quickest way to get around. They were good at developing ships that were fast and safe. Ships, known as **longboats**, were often used as a sign of wealth and were so important to the Norse people that sometimes they were buried in them.



In 793 the Vikings raided a monastery called **Lindisfarne** on Holy Island. The Vikings took gold, silver and jewels then killed the monks who lived there and burnt the monastery down.



The Vikings first started colonising England in 865. It took them just thirteen years to occupy a third of Britain. In 886, a peace treaty called the Treaty of Wedmore was signed. Guthrum and the Vikings agreed to leave Wessex alone.

By 1016, England had become one country, **unifying** the Danelaw and Anglo-Saxon kingdom, and was under the control of a single Viking king. King Cnut. The territory of England was now established as it still remains today.

