St Peter's Roman Catholic Primary School

# History Class 5 Year A
## Vikings vs Anglo-Saxons

**Substantive Concept:** Migration/Invasion
**Disciplinary Concept:** Historical interpretation

**Summative Question:** Were Vikings really brutal invaders?

**What is this topic about?** In this unit, we will find out about the Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the kingdom of England and how England became a unified country. We will explore where the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings came from, how they fought for territory and power, and how their fighting ultimately led to the kingdom of England we know today. Along the way, we will also find out what life was like for everyday people living in Anglo-Saxon and Viking Britain, exploring things such as Viking runes and Anglo-Saxon stories like Beowulf.

**During this topic, pupils will discover:**

- How the Anglo-Saxons came to Britain and why this period is often referred to as the Dark Ages.
- When and why the Vikings first invaded Britain.
- Some different perspectives of the Viking invasions.
- That the Vikings settled in Britain after the first raids in the 8th century and how the Vikings gained control of the northeast of England.
- Why King Alfred was called 'Alfred the Great'.
- Similarities and differences between Viking and Anglo-Saxon life.
- By 1066, Britain was a unified country under the control of a single king.
- Why the Battle of Hastings took place, and that it ended the era of Anglo-Saxon and Viking rule in Britain.



- **During this topic, pupils will work historically to:**
- Use dates and a wide range of historical terms to accurately sequence and explain key events and periods, including the arrival of the Anglo-Saxons, the Viking raids beginning in AD 793, the reign of King Alfred, the establishment of the Danelaw, and the Battle of Hastings in 1066.
- Develop chronologically secure knowledge by identifying how people, places, and periods such as Anglo-Saxon England, the Viking invasions, and the unification of England under one king fit within a clear historical framework.
- Analyse links and contrasts within and across different periods of time, considering both short-term and long-term changes, such as how Viking raids led to settlement, how daily life changed after invasion, and similarities and differences between Anglo-Saxon and Viking societies.
- Recognise how historical knowledge is constructed from a range of sources, evaluating how written Anglo-Saxon accounts and archaeological evidence can present different interpretations of Viking actions and motives.
- Give reasons for contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past, using evidence to explain why some sources portray Vikings mainly as brutal invaders while others suggest they were also settlers and traders.
- Describe the impact of historical events and changes, including how Viking settlement affected laws, place names, trade, and the development of a more unified England.
- Construct informed responses to historical questions and hypotheses, selecting and organising relevant evidence, dates, and terminology to explain events such as the Viking invasions and the end of Anglo-Saxon rule.

**Key Knowledge (linked to concepts). What children NEED to know.**

Some Vikings did act as **brutal invaders**. They raided villages and monasteries, stealing treasure and sometimes hurting people. These attacks were scary, especially for the **Anglo-Saxons**, who were often the ones being attacked. Many of the stories we have about Vikings were written by monks, so they describe Vikings as cruel and violent. However, Vikings were also **settlers, farmers, and traders**. Many stayed in Britain, built homes, worked the land, and lived alongside the Anglo-Saxons. They set up towns, traded goods, and followed laws. Archaeological evidence, like houses, tools, and everyday objects, shows that Viking life was not always about fighting.

**Prior Learning:** Migration/Invasion: Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots (KS2), Changes in living memory – food (KS1); Historical interpretation: Significant Explorers (KS1)
**Connectivity:** Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots (KS2)

| Key Vocabulary | | |
|---|---|---|
| invasion | monastery | unified |
| settlement | interpretation | Danelaw |
| migration | kingdom | |