

HISTORY: The Vikings

Year 5/6 Summer

Knowledge Organiser

The Viking period in Britain lasted from approximately 793 AD to 1066 AD.

Lindisfarne, also known as Holy Island, was one of the first landing sites of the Vikings.

Monasteries were places where monks lived and worshipped.

Most people respected the monks and gave them money and gifts for their monasteries; however, the Vikings committed terrible violence against the Monks at Lindisfarne.

Lindisfarne is a tidal island off the north-east coast of England.



A Viking Warrior

The Vikings came from Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

The Vikings were great explorers and travellers. Viking ships reached **Britain, France, Spain, Italy and North Africa.**

The Vikings traded all over Europe and as far east as Central Asia.

They bought goods and materials such as **silver, silk, spices, wine, jewellery, glass and pottery.**

In return, they sold items like honey, tin, wheat, wool, wood, iron, fur, leather, fish and walrus ivory. Everywhere they went, the Vikings **bought** and **sold** slaves.

Viking longships were long, sleek and fast. They were designed to travel up narrow rivers and held up to 120 men. On the prow was the head of a fierce creature to frighten the spirits of the land that the Vikings were raiding. The Vikings steered the ship by the sun, stars and knowledge passed on by earlier raiders.



In 1066, The Battle of Hastings took place. William the conqueror defeated the English King Harold. William was from Normandy in France. And so the Norman period began and the Viking period ended.



Edward the Confessor was the first English King to reign after 25 years of Danish rule.

(1042 – 1066)



The **Danelaw** was an area that covered the north and east of England during the 9th and 10th centuries. It was mainly controlled by Danish (not Norwegian) Vikings, and the **Dane's law** was used to rule the people (hence **Danelaw**)