

Key Vocabulary

Danegald	"Paying the Dane". King Ethelred 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.
pillaged	To violently steal something.
wergild	A payment system used to settle disputes between a criminal and the victim or their family.

Links to previous learning:

- Anglo-Saxons
- Crime and punishment

Significant people we will learn about in this topic:

King Alfred the Great, Anglo-Saxon king.

Edward the Confessor

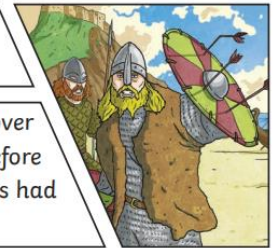
Harold II

Harold of Norway

William the Conqueror

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

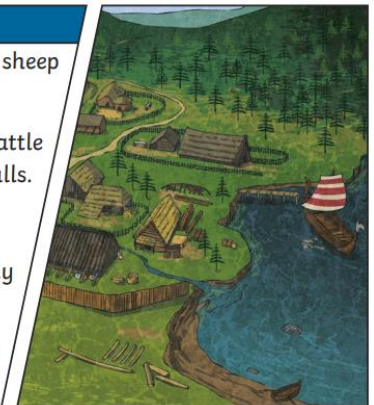
Farms - Vikings lived on farms and kept cows, pigs and sheep for milk, wool and meat.

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.



Anglo-Saxon Laws and Punishments

The Anglo-Saxon laws were very similar to some we have today, although the punishments were very different. These were often very brutal and would be carried in public to act as deterrents, to discourage others from committing such crimes. Stoning, whipping and **exile** were common punishments; as well as paying a fine (**wergild**), or receiving reparations in the form of hot or cold water ordeals.



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.