



# The Vikings



Lindisfarne (England)



Danelaw (England)

## Timeline

700	789	793	865	866	876	886	1014	1066
The Viking Age begins	First recorded Viking attack	Viking raid on Lindisfarne	Viking army from Denmark invades England	Danes capture York (Jorvik)	Vikings from Denmark, Sweden and Norway settle permanently in England	King Alfred defeats the Vikings / Allows them to settle in East England	King Canute (Cnut) of Denmark King of England	Battle of Hastings / William I King of England

## Key Vocabulary

Danegeld	Danish Tax. A tax paid so that the Vikings wouldn't attack the locals and steal their land.
Scandinavia	Norway, Sweden and Denmark
Colonise	To go and live somewhere and take control of it.
Explorers	People who travel to a new place to discover what is there.
Long Boats	Long, narrow ships that could travel fast, in shallow waters for incredibly long distances.
Evidence	Proof, information showing whether something is true.
Raid	Enter a place to steal something.
Accounts	Written or spoken reports of something that happened.
Seaborne	Carried on a ship.
Navigation	Finding a way around.
Reputation	Beliefs held about someone.
Volatile	Likely to change suddenly.
Descendant	Relative from later generations.
Symmetrical	With two halves exactly the same.
Monastery	A place where Monks lived.
Norsemen	Men from the North.

Some of the names of our towns and villages have a little bit of Norse language in them. Do you recognise any names with endings like these: '-by', as in Corby or Whitby, means 'farm' or 'town'-thorpe', as in Scunthorpe, means 'village'

## General Knowledge

### Invaders

The Vikings wanted new land because the places where they came from in Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden and Denmark). It was hard to grow crops, which meant there was a food shortage as the population got bigger. Britain and Europe had plenty of good farmland, so the Vikings tried to claim some of that land for themselves.

### Religion

The Vikings believed in many different gods and they thought making sacrifices to the gods kept them all happy. They also told stories about the gods, called Norse mythology. Each god was in charge of something different such as war, travel or home.  
Odin - the king of gods / the god of war  
Thor - the god of thunder  
Freyja - the god of love and war  
Loki - half god and half fire spirit causing trouble for the other gods



### Clothes

Mostly made from wool or linen. They used dyes made from plants and minerals to make red, green, brown, yellow and blue, so their clothes were very colourful.

## Famous Figures

### Eric Bloodaxe (885-954)

Eric Bloodaxe was king of the Viking kingdom of Jorvik between 947-948 and 952-954. Jorvik was a large Viking kingdom around York. He was the last King of York who was driven out in 954. The Vikings in England then agreed to be ruled by the king of England rather than having their own king.

### Leif Erikson (c.970-1020)

Leif Erikson was a famous Viking explorer from Iceland who sailed all the way to North America.

### King Canute (990-1035)

Canute was the first Viking king of England, ruling from 1016-1035. He won a battle against Edmund II that divided their kingdoms, but when Edmund died Canute ruled both kingdoms. His sons, Harold Harefoot and then Hardicanute, ruled until 1042.

### Harald Hardrada (c.1015-1066)

Harald Hardrada was the king of Norway. He led Viking armies into England but was defeated at the Battle of Stamford Bridge in York by King Harold II.