

# Vanquishing Vikings

## Who Were the Vikings?

The Vikings came from the countries of Norway, Sweden and Denmark. They came to Britain as it was warmer than their countries and the land was better for growing crops and rearing animals. They had a reputation for being warriors but some Vikings just came to settle on the land. They were skilled at crafting and made beautiful metalwork and wooden carvings.

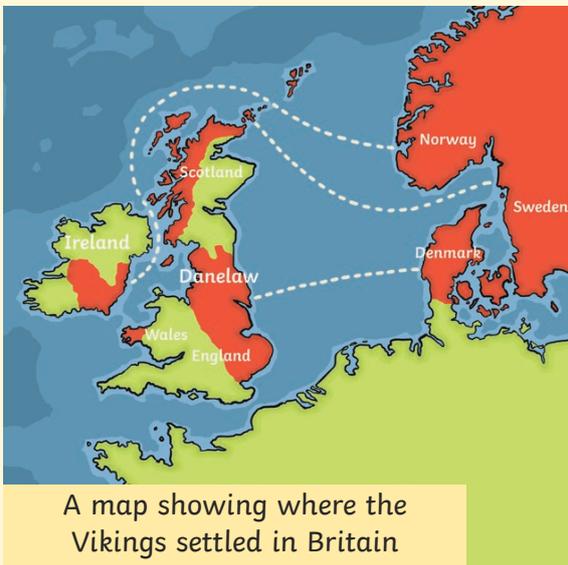


The Vikings first came to Britain in AD 787 and raided religious buildings called monasteries for their treasures, such as jewels, gold and books. In AD 865, the Vikings came to Britain again, this time not just to raid it but also to conquer the land.



## Where Did the Vikings Settle?

Over the next few years, the Vikings battled to take over land and they conquered much of the east of Britain. These lands were known as Danelaw and included Northumbria, East Anglia and the Five Boroughs.



A map showing where the Vikings settled in Britain

## Viking Money

The Vikings didn't use money as we do today when they first came to Britain. They were only interested in coins for their value in gold and silver. However, once the Vikings came to Britain, they started to make their own money. Danegeld was the name given to payments made to the Vikings to stop them from raiding!





### Viking Clothing and Jewellery

The Vikings' clothing was all handmade from wool, linen and leather. Clothes needed to be practical, so they were able to work and go about their daily lives, but also needed to keep them warm.

Viking jewellery was made from precious metals, such as gold and silver, and even animal bones. Vikings wore rings, brooches, bracelets and necklaces and many featured animal designs.



A small Viking brooch made from bronze



### Viking Gods

The gods were a huge part of Viking society. The main god was Odin who created Midgard, home of the humans, and Asgard, home of the gods. Thor was another important god. He was the god of thunder who, Vikings believed, protected their world. He had a powerful hammer that was said to be able to crush mountains.



### Viking Fun Facts



Vikings did not actually wear horns on their helmets.

- Vikings did not actually wear horns on their helmets. Instead, they wore skull caps to protect their heads from any impact.
- The name 'Viking' means 'pirate raid' in the Old Norse language.
- As there were no banks in Viking times, people would bury their valuables to keep them safe.
- When a Viking chief died, his body was put on a burning ship with his jewels and gold and sometimes even his servants!

# Questions

1. Which of the following is **not** a country that Vikings came from? Tick **one**.

- Norway
- Sweden
- Germany
- Denmark

2. In what year did the Vikings first come to Britain?

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3. Draw lines to match each word to its definition:

Danelaw	●
Thor	●
Danegeld	●
Asgard	●

● god of thunder
● payment to stop the Vikings from raiding
● home of the Viking gods
● lands conquered by the Vikings

4. What materials did Vikings use to make jewellery? Tick **two**.

- animal bone
- linen
- leather
- silver

5. What did Vikings raid when they first came to Britain? Tick **one**.

- houses
- factories
- farms
- monasteries

6. According to the text, give **one** reason why the Vikings came to Britain.

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7. **They had a reputation for being warriors but some Vikings just came to settle on the land**

What do you think the word 'reputation' means?

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8. What **three** features of a non-chronological report can you identify?  
How do these features help to make the text easier to read and understand?

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