

Class 3 – Spring 1 2024

Super Sleuth – Were the Vikings traders, raiders or something else?

What will we be learning?

- Throughout this unit of work children will:
- Explain where the Vikings came from and why they invaded Britain.
- Sequence events according to their significance for groups of people.
- Find evidence and make inferences from sources.
- Name Viking trade routes.
- Explain why trade routes were important to the Vikings.
- Identify the differences between Viking sagas.
- Evaluate the impact of Viking achievements.

Key Facts

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.

AD 1042 – Edward the Confessor became King. He was known as ‘the Confessor’ because he led a very religious life and was very kind and thoughtful.

AD 1066 – Harold II tried to stop Harald of Norway from invading England and killed him in the Battle of Stamford Bridge.

William, the Duke of Normandy, thought he should be king so came to fight Harold in the Battle of Hastings (AD 1066).

Harold was shot through the eye with an arrow and died in the battle. William of Normandy, who became known as William the Conqueror, became King, bringing the Viking and Anglo-Saxon age to an end in AD 1066.

Key vocabulary

- Danegeld: “Paying the Dane”. King Etherlred 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.
- Pagans: A religion where many gods and goddesses are worshipped.
- Pillaged: To violently steal something.
- Raid: A surprise attack.
- Wergild: A payment system used to settle disputes between a criminal and the victim or their family.



Questions:

1. What region did the Vikings originally come from? _____
2. What was the name of the leader of a Viking village or group? _____
3. What was a common trade item of the Vikings? _____
4. Who was the famous Anglo-Saxon king who resisted the Viking invasions in the late 9th century? _____
5. What was the final outcome of the Viking invasions of England? _____

What I have learnt.