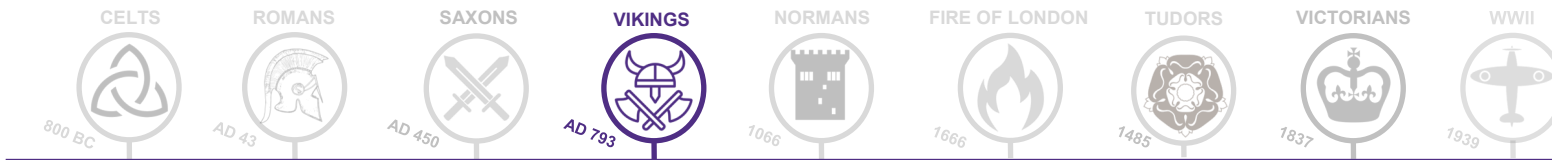
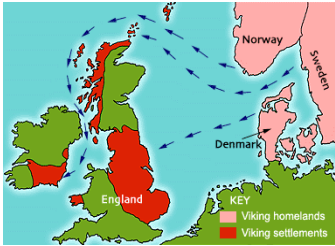


Year 4: VIKINGS

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:



Who were they?



The Vikings came from Norway, Sweden and Denmark and were known as Norsemen meaning Men of the North.

The Anglo-Saxons were incredibly disorganised and often fought between themselves. This meant that the Viking found it easy to take over parts of England, Scotland and Ireland.

Fame and wealth was important to the Vikings. They were famous for raiding other lands, which they explored by sea in longships. Wealthy farmers would own a ship and raid after spring, before harvest. They would leave their families to look after the crops. They would then raid again after harvest. Young men were recruited to sail and raid with the farmers.

Why did they raid?

The Viking travelled England, Scotland, Ireland, Northern and Central Europe, and Russia. There is also evidence they may have travelled as far as Canada.

Vikings often buried their hoards, including gold and coins, which are still being found today.

They used the sun to navigate on their ships - knarr, and longship.

Vikings traded products such as amber, ivory, animal fur and slaves which had been captured on raids.

In 793 on their first raid of Britain, they landed on Lindisfarne (a small island with a community of monks). They stole goods, killed many of the monks and took slaves.

Why was Britain desirable?

They settled on the Isle of Orkney as it was only a short sail from Norway and the land was free. It was a good base to raid the rest of Britain from. They raided Scotland for about 30 years before raiding coastal areas of England.

The Vikings were stronger than the Anglo-Saxons and defeated many of their kingdoms.

They lived in long, rectangular houses made of wood and wattle. They were usually one room, with the hearth in the middle and smoke hole above. Animals and people lived in the same space.



Who:



Alfred the Great

849-899 CE

In 871, he became King of Wessex.

He changed battle methods to help fight the Vikings better. Despite defeating them many times he agreed to allow them to settle in an area called Danelaw.

Impact and Culture:

Some of the places in Britain are made up from Viking words.

- **-thorpe**: secondary settlement (but in the Midlands could be Old English Throp meaning settlement). Example Copmanthorpe
- **-thwaite**: originally thicket, woodland clearing. Example Slaithwaite (Huddersfield)
- **-tost**: site of a house or building. Example Lowestoft, Langtoft
- **-keld**: spring. Example Threlkeld
- **-ness**: promontory or headland. Note: Sheerness is Old English; Inverness is Gaelic (meaning mouth). Skegness is Old Norse
- **-by**: farmstead, village, settlement. Example Selby, Whitby
- **-kirk**: originally kirkja, meaning church. Example Ormskirk

Vikings valued bravery and a good death in battle. How brave you were in battle decided if you went to the afterlife.

It was believed the world was made up of 9 worlds: Midgard, Asgard, Vanaheim, Jutonheim, Niflheim, Muspelheim, Alfheim, Svartalfheim and Helheim.

Vikings believed that if they died bravely they would go to Valhalla (a hall in Asgard). They would be heroes in the afterlife and would feast and drink everyday.



Runestones were large engraved stones. They would have pictures, tributes and tales of voyages written on them.

Vikings who didn't die bravely went to Helheim and were punished.

KEY VOCABULARY:



BATTLE METHOD: the order and way troops are positioned



COASTAL: the part of land joining or near to the sea.



HOARDES: a stock or store of money of valued objects



INLAND: situated away from the coast



KNARR: a type of Norse merchant ship



LONGSHIP: a long, narrow warship, powered by both oar and sail



NAVIGATE: plan and direct the course of a ship, aircraft or other form of transport



ORKNEY: a small island located off the northern coast of Scotland



RUNES: an ancient Germanic alphabet used by Vikings



TRADED: buy and sell goods and services



VIKINGR: the act of raiding and adventuring by sea.