

Viking Invaders

- The Vikings came from the area of the modern Scandinavian countries (Sweden, Norway, Denmark).
- They set out on boats called **longships** to 'go viking' (which means to go round looking for resources and land to claim as their own).
- They particularly liked to raid **monasteries**, like the one at *Lindisfarne* in Northumbria.
- The Vikings went on to invade Scotland before building up an army to help them settle in England.

Viking Life

- At first, the Vikings came to Britain, took what they could and then left again.
- The second time they came, they decided to stay, enjoying the milder climate and making use of the rich natural resources.
- When the Vikings first came to Britain, they were pagans, which means they worshipped many gods. Over time, many Vikings converted to Christianity.
- Most Vikings lived on farms, growing their own food.

Anglo-Saxon Kings: King Alfred the Great...

- When the Anglo-Saxons first settled in Britain there were **seven Anglo-Saxon kingdoms**, each ruled by different kings, but by AD 878 there was only one kingdom left – Wessex – ruled by **King Alfred the Great**. The other kingdoms had been overrun by the Vikings.
- King Alfred was the first Anglo-Saxon king to defeat the Vikings in battle.
- In AD 886, King Alfred made a deal with the Viking king, Guthrum, giving the Vikings control of Northern and Eastern Britain (an area known as **Danelaw**), helping to establish peaceful relations between the two groups.

...King Athelstan

- King Athelstan was King Alfred's grandson.
- He is regarded as the **first king of all Britain** and is remembered as a great leader.
- During his reign, he drove the Vikings back more and more and was able to claim control over a greater area of land.
- Athelstan formed good relationships with rulers abroad, strengthening Britain's position overseas.

...King Ethelred 'The Unready'

- Ethelred became king when he was just 7 years old.
- He was not a good fighter, so instead of battling the Vikings, he kept paying them to go away! This money became known as **Danegeld**.
- The Vikings kept returning to attack because they knew that they would keep getting more money.

How did the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings Struggle for the Kingdom of England?



The Battle of Hastings

- **Edward the Confessor** was King Ethelred's son. He was known as 'The Confessor' because he led a very religious life. He grew up in Normandy, in France.
- After Edward, **Harold Godwinson** became king. However, William, Duke of Normandy (known as **William the Conqueror**), believed that he should be king as he was Edward the Confessor's nephew.
- Harold and William fought in a very famous battle at **Hastings in 1066**. William won the battle, marking the start of the Norman era.

A timeline of Britain from the Stone Age to the Normans

Stone Age 2.5 million years ago – 2500 BC
Bronze Age 2500 BC – 800 BC
Iron Age 800 BC – AD 43
Roman Britain AD 43 – AD 410
Anglo Saxons AD 410 - 1066
Vikings AD 700 - 1066
Normans AD 1066- 1485

