



Key Vocabulary

Scandinavia — a group of countries in northern Europe including Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway.

Viking — Scandinavian seafaring pirates and traders who raided and settled in many parts of north-western Europe.

Longship — a long, wooden, narrow boat used by the Vikings.

Pillage — to steal goods using violent tactics.

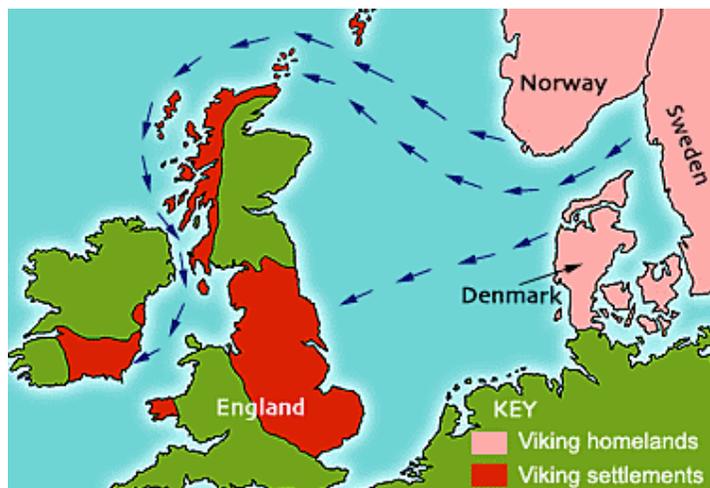
Raid — to suddenly attack a place.

Invasion — the act of invading with armed forces

Wergild — a payment system used in Anglo-Saxon times to settle disputes

Pagan — A person who believed in many gods

Runes — Viking alphabet



People

King Alfred the Great (AD 849-899)

Defeated the Vikings in several battles to keep England under Anglo-Saxon rule.

Erik Bloodaxe (AD885-954) The King of the Viking kingdom of Jorvik.

Leif Eriksson (AD990-1020)

Famous Viking explorer who sailed to North America.

King Canute (AD 995-1035)

Viking King of England, Denmark and Norway.

William the Conqueror (AD 1028-1087)

Won the Battle of Hastings.

Anglo-Saxon Laws and Punishment: The Anglo-Saxon laws were very similar to some we have today, although the punishments were very different. These were often very brutal and would be carried out in public to act as deterrents, to discourage others from committing such crimes. Stoning, whipping and exile were common punishments, as well as paying a fine (wergild), or receiving reparations in the form of hot or cold water ordeals.

Viking Laws and Punishments: Viking laws were not written down but passed by word of mouth. Punishments could include fines, being semi-outlawed, fighting to death, or revenge on someone who has killed a family member.

Life in Saxon & Viking Britain: Vikings have traditionally had a fierce reputation as invaders and for violent attacks. They terrorized, plundered, traded, explored and finally settled and farmed all over the lands they encountered. Gradually skirmishes decreased and Viking farming, language and laws spread across the north and east. Traditional Viking families had men working the land, with a wife taking care of the home and of the family valuables. Clothes and housing were not dissimilar from those in the rest of England.

