



The Anglo-Saxon and Viking Period

Anglo-Saxons

VS

Vikings

Sticky Knowledge:

The Anglo-Saxons had settled Britain after the Roman period.

AD 660 – England is broken up into 7 smaller kingdoms (known as the Heptarchy).

Mercia was the most powerful kingdom up to the Viking invasion.

The Anglo-Saxons had converted to Christianity.

The Anglo-Saxons were warrior-farmers and came from north-western Europe. They began to invade Britain while the Romans were still in control. They loved fighting and were very fierce. In the ninth century (Year 800), 400 hundred years after the Anglo-Saxons invaded England; the country came under attack from Viking raiders from Norway and northern Denmark.



King Alfred, Saxon king of Wessex, fought them in a great battle, but he could not drive them right away and had to let them have part of the country, called Danelaw.



Vikings had raided England before the 9th Century. In 865, an army was raised to conquer England, known in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle as the Great Heathen Army. Over the next 10 years the Vikings took over more land, leading to Wessex as the only unconquered kingdom. Battles between the two groups continued until the Battle of Edington, at which King Alfred (the Great) defeated the Vikings. England was separated into parts ruled by the Saxons and by the Vikings.

Key information:

Not all Vikings were warriors. Many came in peace and became farmers.

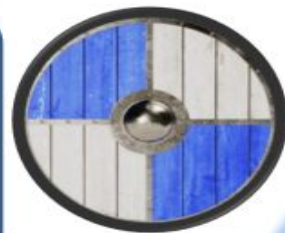
The lands that the Vikings occupied were known as Danelaw.

Longships were designed to sail in both deep and shallow water.

Vikings were pagans and often raided monasteries, looting gold.



The attack on Lindisfarne was recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle.





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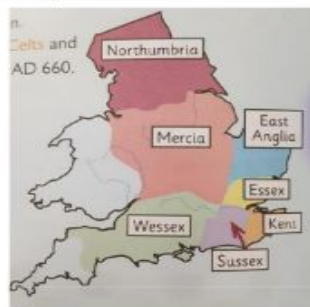


Scandinavia	A group of countries in northern Europe that includes Denmark, Norway and Sweden, sometimes also Finland and Iceland.
Danelaw	The name given to lands in Britain occupied by the Vikings.
Archaeologist	People who work out our history by looking at artefacts that have been found.
Legacy	Anglo-Saxons left a legacy including the language we speak, culture and politics.
Wessex	Known today as Dorset, Hampshire, Somerset and Wiltshire.
Pagan	The Vikings were originally pagan, not Christian. They believed in many gods and goddesses.
Shires	Saxon lands were divided into shires, which helped to make up the countries we have today.

790- 799 AD	First Viking raids on Britain
793 AD	Attack on Lindisfarne (the first planned Viking raid)
871 AD	Alfred the Great becomes king of Wessex
876 AD	Guthrum (new leader of Vikings) attacks Wessex
878 AD	Battle at Chippenham, many of Alfred's men are killed.
878 AD	Alfred's army beat the Danish Vikings. Alfred and Guthrum make a treaty.
924 AD	Athelstan becomes the King of Mercia
928 AD	Athelstan retakes York from the Vikings and becomes the first King of England
978 AD	New Viking raids after King Aethelred the Unready is crowned.
1002 AD	Aethelred takes revenge on Vikings, orders all Danish men to be killed.
1042 AD	Edward becomes King, and becomes known as Edward the Confessor.
1066	Battle of Hastings

Seven Kingdoms

Britain was split into 7 kingdoms in AD 660: Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Essex, Wessex, Sussex and Kent.



The area settled by the Vikings was called the Danelaw



The Wirral Peninsula

The Vikings left their legacy in Wirral too! Many of the local place names are of Viking origin such as: Tranmeir (Tranmere), Greasbyr (Greasby), Pennsbyr (Pensby) and Hesliwellla (Heswall).