

Key Vocabulary	
<b>Danes</b>	Another name for Viking invaders.
<b>Danelaw</b>	The area of land given to the Vikings in the east of England.
<b>invade</b>	To enter a country and capture it.
<b>pagan</b>	A religion other than one of the main world religions, e.g. non-Christian.
<b>trade</b>	The action of buying and selling goods and services.
<b>conquest</b>	The invasion and control of a country or place.
<b>chieftan</b>	Leader of the people and law speaker who oversees decisions.
<b>monarchy</b>	A form of government with at monarch (King or Queen) at the head.
<b>rival</b>	A person competing with another for the same reason or for control of something.
<b>alliance</b>	A relationship formed for shared benefit, especially between countries.
<b>territory</b>	An area of land under the control of a ruler or state.
<b>unification</b>	The process of being united or made into a whole.

## Who were the Vikings?

The Viking age was from about AD700 to 1100. Many Vikings left their homes in Scandinavia and travelled by longboat to other countries, like Britain and Ireland. The Vikings invaded many times until they conquered in 865AD. They stayed in Britain for the first time in the winter of AD866

The people of Britain called the invaders '**Danes**', but they came from **Norway and Sweden** as well as **Denmark**. Vikings were also known **Norsemen**. Norsemen means 'people from the North'. Many Vikings sailed all over Europe and the Atlantic Ocean in their longships. Their longships could sail in shallow water which meant they could travel up rivers as well as across the sea.

### Lindisfarne

Vikings first invaded Britain in 793 AD. Viking raiders attacked the famous abbey of Lindisfarne. They killed many of the monks and took the treasures of the church. This raid marked the start of the Viking migration from Scandinavia in 793.

### God and Goddesses

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The Vikings were pagans and worshipped many god. They believed that their gods lived in the sky at a place called Asgard.

Vikings told stories/myths called **sagas**, about their gods and their adventures. After a time, Viking settlers became Christians.

## Viking Legacy

The most important city in the Danelaw was the city of York (Jorvik). In 1976 archaeologists began to dig up Coppergate, an old Viking street in York. Thousands of artefacts were uncovered, which have helped us to understand daily Viking life.

Some of our words come from Viking language, such as sister (from systir), egg (from agg), sky (from sky) and take (from taka).

Many towns and cities in Britain that were founded by the Vikings can still be spotted today. Places that end in -by, -ay, or thorp were almost certainly Viking towns.

## Entertainment

Vikings set aside time for social and festive gatherings. Board games (e.g. 'hnefatafl' and "nitavl") and games of dice were played. Towards the end of the Viking era, chess appeared.

On festive occasions storytelling, poems, music alcoholic drinks, like beer and mead, contributed to the atmosphere. Viking entertainment also included mime and theatre.

hnefatafl

In the winter, the Vikings used ice skates, both for fun and as a means of transport. These were made from cow or horse lower leg bones, which were tied to the feet with leather laces.

## Viking Warriors

Viking warriors fought using **long swords** and **axes**.

Honour and glory in battle were the only things that lasted forever to a Viking warrior.

Warriors who died bravely were believed to go to **Valhalla**, the Viking heaven

They were also farmers, and kept animals and grew crops. They were skilful at crafting, and made beautiful metalwork and wooden carvings.