

Vikings: Raiders, Traders, and Settlers

Learning objective: To assess knowledge and understanding of Viking life, exploration, and their impact on Britain.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed answers. Ensure your writing is clear and uses appropriate historical vocabulary.

Ellie the elephant has been studying the arrival of the Vikings in Britain. She notes that while they are often remembered for their fierce raids, they were also skilled explorers, expert shipbuilders, and peaceful farmers who significantly changed the landscape and culture of the British Isles.

Word bank: longship · Danelaw · raids · settlement · trade · monastery · Lindisfarne · Norse · agriculture · sagas

1. Name one reason why Viking longships were so effective for travel and exploration. (1 mark)

2. Identify the year and the location of the first major Viking raid in Britain mentioned in historical records. (2 marks)

3. Explain two differences between the Vikings' lives as raiders and their lives as settlers. (2 marks)

4. What was the 'Danelaw'? Describe its significance in the history of Anglo-Saxon England. (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast the Viking gods with the beliefs held by the Anglo-Saxons at the time. Justify why these beliefs influenced their daily lives. (4 marks)

6. Explain why the Vikings were considered expert traders. What items did they trade, and what does this tell us about their reach across the world? (3 marks)

7. What might happen if the Vikings had never settled in Britain? Discuss the potential impact on our language, place names, and farming techniques. (5 marks)

8. Identify one primary source that historians use to learn about Viking culture and explain why it is useful. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a Viking longship. Label the key features that made it perfect for both open-sea travel and navigating shallow rivers.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension Task: Write a short diary entry from the perspective of a Viking settler arriving in Britain for the first time. Describe what you see, how you feel about the land, and what you hope to achieve for your family. Use at least five words from the word bank.