

Vikings: Raiders, Traders, and Settlers

Learning objective: To understand why the Vikings travelled to Britain, how they lived, and the impact they had on Anglo-Saxon society.

Use your knowledge of the Viking Age to answer the following questions. Think about the reasons for their voyages, their daily lives, and the evidence they left behind.

Ellie the elephant has been visiting historical sites across Britain to learn about the Viking period. From the first raid on the monastery at Lindisfarne in 793 AD to the establishment of the Danelaw, the Vikings changed the course of British history. They were not just warriors; they were skilled farmers, master shipbuilders, and clever traders who brought new language, crafts, and customs to our shores.

Word bank: Longship · Danelaw · Lindisfarne · Scandinavia · Raiding · Longhouse · Pagan · Settlement

1. The Vikings originated from Scandinavia. Explain two reasons why they might have chosen to travel across the sea to Britain in search of new lands. (2 marks)

2. Describe one key feature of a Viking longship. Why was this design so effective for both raiding and trading? (2 marks)

3. What was the 'Danelaw'? Explain how this agreement changed the map of Britain during the Viking Age. (2 marks)

4. Vikings were often farmers as well as warriors. Describe what life would have been like inside a typical Viking longhouse. (2 marks)

5. Look at the word bank. Choose two words and write a sentence for each that explains their significance to Viking history. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a detailed Viking longship. Label the parts of the ship, such as the sail, the dragon-head prow, and the oars, and show how it would look navigating a narrow river.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a Viking settler arriving in Britain for the first time. Write a short diary entry (50-80 words) describing the landscape you see and how you feel about building a new home here.