

Vikings: Raiders, Traders, and Settlers

Learning objective: To evaluate the impact of Viking raids, settlements, and culture on Anglo-Saxon Britain.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide detailed, accurate answers. Ensure your writing is clear and structured.

In 793 AD, the quiet monastery on the island of Lindisfarne was attacked by mysterious seafarers from the North. This event marked the beginning of the Viking Age in Britain. Over the next three centuries, these Norse people transitioned from seasonal raiders to permanent settlers, influencing the language, laws, and landscape of the British Isles.

Word bank: Danelaw · Longship · Lindisfarne · Monastery · Pagan · Longhouse · Settlement · Invasion

1. Identify two reasons why the Viking longship was considered a superior piece of engineering for the era. (2 marks)

2. Explain why the Vikings initially targeted monasteries like Lindisfarne. What did they hope to find there? (2 marks)

3. Describe the 'Danelaw'. Who lived there, and how was it governed differently from the rest of Anglo-Saxon England? (3 marks)

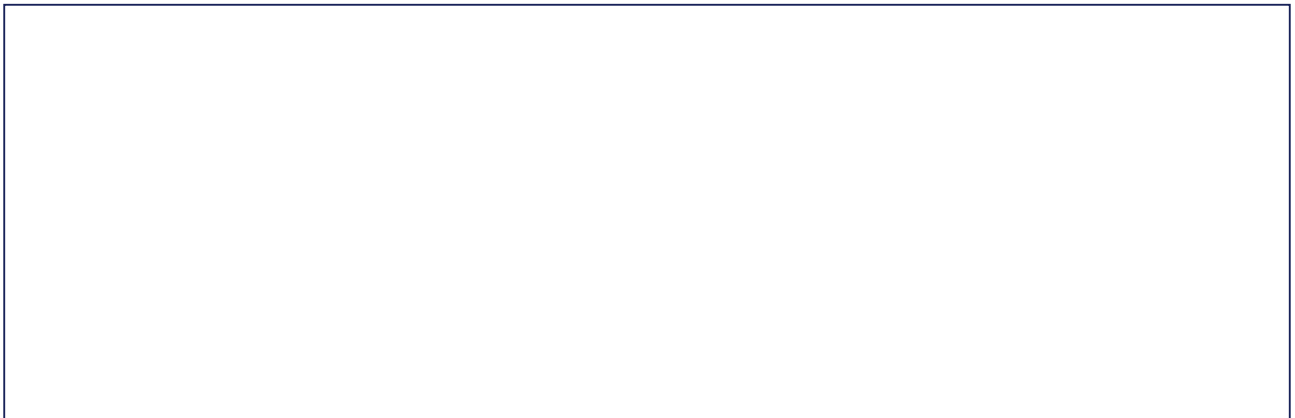
4. Compare and contrast the Viking lifestyle with the Anglo-Saxon lifestyle. How did their daily farming and housing methods differ? (4 marks)

5. Justify why many historians now describe the Vikings as 'traders and explorers' rather than just 'violent raiders'. (4 marks)

6. Ellie the elephant has been researching Viking jewellery and metalwork. Explain why the patterns found on these artefacts suggest the Vikings were highly skilled craftspeople. (3 marks)

7. Extended Writing Task: Imagine you are a Viking settler deciding whether to remain in Britain or return to Scandinavia. Write a diary entry explaining your decision, the challenges you face, and how you have integrated into the local community. Use historical evidence to support your choice. (7 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of a Viking longhouse. Label the key features, such as the central hearth, the raised benches for sleeping, and the area for livestock.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Imagine a new Viking settlement is founded. If the Vikings had never settled in Britain, what might be missing from our modern language or culture today? Write a paragraph justifying your prediction.