

Viking Voyager: Historical Investigation Log

Learning objective: To analyse the impact of Viking settlements and daily life in Britain during the Anglo-Saxon period.

Step into the shoes of Ellie the elephant as you explore the history of the Vikings. Research the Viking era to complete this log. Use your best historical vocabulary to describe their lives, traditions, and the reasons for their journeys across the North Sea. Ensure your explanations are supported by evidence.

Word bank: Longship · Danelaw · Raids · Settlement · Norse · Navigation · Monastery · Longhouse · Craftsmanship · Influence

1. The Journey: Explain why the Vikings left Scandinavia to travel across the North Sea. Consider push and pull factors. (3 marks)

2. Technological Innovation: Compare and contrast a Viking longship with other vessels of the time. Why was the design of the longship so effective for their raids? (4 marks)

3. Daily Life: Describe the structure of a Viking longhouse. What does this tell us about their community and social hierarchy? (3 marks)

4. The Danelaw: Justify the decision made by King Alfred the Great to establish the Danelaw. What was the significance of this agreement? (4 marks)

5. Cultural Legacy: Identify two ways in which Viking language or traditions influenced life in Britain. Provide examples. (3 marks)

6. Critical Reflection: What might have happened if the Vikings had never settled in Britain? Explain the potential impact on British history. (5 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a chronicler living in an Anglo-Saxon monastery in 793 AD. Write a formal diary entry describing your perspective on the arrival of the Norsemen. Use descriptive, sophisticated language to contrast the peace of the monastery with the sudden arrival of the raiders.