

Viking Voyagers: A Historical Investigation

Learning objective: To analyse the impact of Viking settlements in Britain and evaluate their influence on daily life.

Use this scaffold to structure your historical report. Ensure you provide evidence to support your claims and use the word bank to link your ideas logically.

The Viking Age was a transformative period in British history, marked by both fierce conflict and the establishment of lasting cultural foundations.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · in contrast · archaeological evidence · settlement · integration · significant impact · navigational prowess · hitherto · legacy

1. Introduction: Define the arrival of the Vikings and explain why they initially chose to travel across the North Sea. Start with: 'The arrival of the Norsemen in the late 8th century changed the landscape of Britain because...' (2 marks)

2. Daily Life and Culture: Describe the daily lives of Viking settlers. Compare their farming or crafting techniques to those of the Anglo-Saxons. Start with: 'Although often remembered as raiders, many Vikings were skilled farmers and traders who...' (3 marks)

3. Exploration and Technology: Justify why Viking longships were considered a masterpiece of engineering for the time. Start with: 'The design of the Viking longship was revolutionary, allowing them to...' (3 marks)

4. The Danelaw: Explain what the Danelaw was and why it was a significant agreement between King Alfred and the Viking leaders. Start with: 'The establishment of the Danelaw represented a turning point because...' (3 marks)

5. Legacy: Evaluate the lasting impact of the Vikings on modern Britain. Consider language, place names, or laws. Start with: 'The influence of the Vikings can still be observed today, most notably through...' (3 marks)

6. Conclusion: Summarise your findings. Explain why, despite their reputation for warfare, the Vikings should be remembered as settlers. Start with: 'In conclusion, while the Viking raids were destructive, their long-term contribution to Britain was...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are Ellie the elephant researching a Viking hoard. Write a short diary entry from the perspective of an Anglo-Saxon villager who has just encountered a group of Viking traders. Use the prompt: 'What might happen if the Vikings had decided to trade peacefully from the very beginning, rather than launching raids? Justify your prediction using your knowledge of their skills and resources.'