Ellie’s Viking Discovery Trail

Learning objective: To understand the reasons for Viking invasions and settlements in Britain.

Ellie the Elephant is exploring history! Read the statements below. Decide if they are True or False. If the statement is False, use your historical knowledge to write the correct fact on the lines provided.

Word bank: Longships · Scandinavia · Lindisfarne · Farming · Trade · Raiding

1. 1. The Vikings originally came to Britain from countries like Norway, Denmark, and Sweden, which are in Scandinavia. True or False? (2 marks)

2. 2. The Vikings were only interested in peaceful trade and never used their longships for fighting. True or False? (2 marks)

3. 3. The first major Viking raid in Britain took place at a monastery on the island of Lindisfarne in AD 793. True or False? (2 marks)

4. 4. Once they settled in Britain, many Vikings stopped raiding and became skilled at farming and crafts. True or False? (2 marks)

5. 5. Vikings travelled to Britain by using large, heavy stone ships that could only sail on calm lakes. True or False? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a Viking longship arriving at a British coastline. Remember to include the dragon-headed prow and the striped sail!

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a Viking settler arriving in Britain for the first time. Write three sentences in your travel diary explaining why you chose to leave your home and what you hope to find in this new land.