History Assessment: The Viking Age

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Viking life, their raids, and their settlement in Britain.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to answer in full sentences where required. Write your answers clearly in the spaces provided.

Ellie the elephant has been reading ancient scrolls about the Vikings. She discovered that they arrived in Britain from countries we now call Norway, Denmark, and Sweden. They were famous for being expert sailors who crossed the North Sea to trade, farm, and sometimes raid coastal towns. By the year 878, they had settled in large parts of England, bringing new skills in crafts and farming.

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

1. Name the three countries in Scandinavia where the Vikings originally came from. (3 marks)

2. What was the name of the special boat that allowed Vikings to travel across the sea and up shallow rivers? (1 mark)

3. Explain one reason why the Vikings decided to travel to Britain. Was it only for raiding? (3 marks)

4. Describe two features of a Viking 'longhouse'. What materials do you think they used to build them? (4 marks)

5. The Vikings brought many items to Britain to trade. If a Viking trader sold a handmade iron axe for £4.50 and a carved wooden bowl for £2.25, how much would a customer pay in total? (2 marks)

6. What was the 'Danelaw' and how did it change the way Britain was governed? (4 marks)

7. Imagine you are a Viking settler arriving in Britain for the first time. Write a short diary entry (about 5-7 sentences) describing what you see, what you brought with you, and why you hope to stay and build a farm. (8 marks)

Draw: Draw a Viking longship. Label the mast, the sail, and the dragon-head carving at the front of the boat.

Extension challenge: Total: /25