

Voyagers of the North: The Viking Age

Grab your map and set sail—discover the history of the legendary Norse explorers!

- The Vikings originated from Scandinavia, including modern-day Norway, Denmark, and Sweden, often travelling in shallow-draft longships that could navigate both open seas and narrow rivers.
- Many Vikings were not just raiders; they were skilled farmers, craftspeople, and traders who exchanged goods like silver, silk, and spices across vast distances.
- In 793 AD, the raid on Lindisfarne monastery in Northumbria is often cited as the beginning of the Viking Age in Britain, shocking the Anglo-Saxon population.
- Viking families lived in rectangular longhouses made of wood, wattle, and daub, with a central hearth used for cooking, warmth, and light during the long winter months.
- The Danelaw was an area of Northern and Eastern England where Viking laws and customs held sway, significantly influencing the English language and place names we still use today.

Did you know? Did you know? Vikings did not wear horned helmets! That image was actually created by 19th-century costume designers for opera performances. Real Viking warriors wore simple leather or iron helmets to protect their heads during sea journeys and skirmishes.

Key vocabulary: Longship · Danelaw · Longhouse · Sagas · Raiding · Paganism