Viking Voyagers: The Great Expedition

Learning objective: To understand the reasons behind Viking expansion, trade, and settlement in Britain during the Anglo-Saxon period.

Ellie the Elephant is mapping out the historical journeys of the Vikings. Sort the historical statements into the correct categories: 'Reasons for Exploration', 'Viking Settlements', or 'Trade and Daily Life'. Then, complete the sentences using the word bank provided to help Ellie finish her historical records.

Word bank: longship · Danelaw · Lindisfarne · scavenging · trade · Scandinavia

1. Sort these events or facts into the correct category: A) Raiding a monastery for silver, B) Establishing farms in Yorkshire, C) Searching for fertile land due to population growth, D) Trading amber and furs for wine and silk, E) Building homes in East Anglia. (5 marks)

2. The Vikings originated from which region of Northern Europe? (1 mark)

3. Name the famous monastery in Northumbria that was attacked by Vikings in 793 AD. (1 mark)

4. Why was the invention of the shallow-draught longship so important for Viking travel? (2 marks)

5. Explain the significance of the Danelaw in the history of Viking settlement. (2 marks)

6. Complete this sentence: The Vikings were not just raiders; they were skilled experts in _____, exchanging goods across vast distances. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a Viking longship. Include the iconic dragon-head prow, the striped sail, and the shields lined up along the side of the hull for protection.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a Viking trader arriving in Britain for the first time. Write a short diary entry (50–80 words) describing the goods you brought to sell and what you hope to find to take back home.