Vikings: Raiders, Traders, and Settlers

Learning objective: To assess knowledge and understanding of Viking life, their invasions, and their impact on Anglo-Saxon Britain.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to provide clear and accurate answers. Write your responses in the spaces provided.

In 793 AD, the monastery at Lindisfarne was attacked, marking the beginning of the Viking Age in Britain. Coming from the lands of Scandinavia, the Vikings travelled in shallow-draught longships that could navigate both open seas and narrow rivers. While they are often remembered as fearsome warriors, they were also skilled farmers, traders, and explorers who eventually created permanent homes across the British Isles.

Word bank: Danelaw · Longship · Lindisfarne · Longhouse · Alfred the Great · Scandinavia · Settlement · Raiding

1. Identify two countries in Scandinavia where the Vikings originated. (2 marks)

2. Explain why the design of the Viking longship was so successful for their style of raiding. (3 marks)

3. What was the 'Danelaw' and how did it change the map of England? (3 marks)

4. Describe two features of a traditional Viking longhouse. (4 marks)

5. Explain the role of Alfred the Great in defending the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms against Viking invasions. (4 marks)

6. Ellie the Elephant is researching Viking trade. List three items the Vikings might have brought to Britain to trade in exchange for silver or wool. (4 marks)

7. Extended Response: 'The Vikings were only interested in destruction and violence.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? Use historical evidence to support your argument. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of a Viking longship, highlighting at least three key features that allowed it to travel across the sea and up rivers.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Research task: Find out how Viking runes were used and write your own name using a simplified runic alphabet.