Vikings: Raiders, Traders, and Settlers

Learning objective: To recall and apply knowledge about the Viking age, including their exploration, culture, and influence on Britain.

Help Ellie the elephant uncover the history of the Vikings! Read each question carefully and circle the correct answer or write your response in the space provided.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.Lindisfarne, 4.A, 5.False, 6.Longship, 7.B, 8.True, 9.Runes, 10.A. Historical context: The Viking Age in Britain began with the raid on Lindisfarne in 793 AD. Vikings were not just raiders; they were skilled navigators, farmers, and poets who settled across northern and eastern England under the agreement known as the Danelaw.

Word bank: Longship · Danelaw · Lindisfarne · Sagas · Longhouse · Runes

1. 1. Which year is widely considered the start of the Viking Age in Britain following the raid on the monastery? A) 700 AD B) 850 AD C) 793 AD* D) 900 AD (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Vikings were exclusively warriors who never engaged in farming or trade. (1 mark)

3. 3. What is the name of the holy island off the coast of Northumberland that was raided by Vikings in 793 AD? (1 mark)

4. 4. What was the name of the area in England where Viking laws and customs were followed? A) Danelaw* B) Saxon-land C) Viking-shire D) Northumbria (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: Viking women had no rights and were not allowed to own property or divorce their husbands. (1 mark)

6. 6. What was the name of the shallow-draft boat that allowed Vikings to travel up rivers to attack inland settlements? (1 mark)

7. 7. Which of these materials was commonly used to create Viking jewellery and ornaments? A) Plastic B) Silver* C) Stainless steel D) Aluminium (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: The Vikings used a system of writing known as 'Runes'. (1 mark)

9. 9. What do we call the long, epic stories about heroes and gods that Vikings told to preserve their history? (1 mark)

10. 10. Which Scandinavian country were most of the raiders who attacked Britain originally from? A) Norway/Denmark* B) Italy C) Greece D) Spain (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a Viking longship sailing on the sea. Include a dragon head carved onto the prow and a striped sail.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a Viking trader arriving in a new land. Write a short paragraph describing three items you have brought with you to trade and what you hope to receive in exchange.