Viking Life: A Historian's Report

Learning objective: To write a balanced historical report exploring the life and influence of the Vikings in Britain.

Use the prompts below to structure your report. Remember to use formal, objective language and include historical evidence to support your points. Refer to Ellie’s notes on Viking history if you get stuck!

The Viking Age was a transformative period in British history, beginning with the infamous raid on Lindisfarne in 793 AD.

Word bank: Furthermore · In addition · Conversely · Evidence suggests · Historians believe · Consequently · Significantly · On the other hand

1. Introduction: Why did the Vikings leave their homelands in Scandinavia? Start by writing: 'The Vikings, often known as Norsemen, originated from...', and explain their motivations for travel. (3 marks)

2. Daily Life: What was life like for a Viking farmer or craftsperson? Start by writing: 'Whilst many associate the Vikings solely with raiding, daily life was primarily focused on...', and describe their settlements. (3 marks)

3. The Danelaw: How did the Vikings change the landscape of Britain? Start by writing: 'The establishment of the Danelaw significantly altered the political map of England because...' (4 marks)

4. Viking Legacy: What evidence remains today? Start by writing: 'The cultural impact of the Vikings can still be observed in modern Britain through...' (3 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise your findings. Start by writing: 'In conclusion, the Vikings were not merely invaders; they were settlers, traders, and explorers who...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a specific Viking longship, such as the Oseberg ship. Explain how the design of these vessels allowed the Vikings to navigate both the open ocean and shallow rivers.