



Key Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Green / Red
Angles	Tribes from Denmark that settled in Britain from 450AD.	Green / Red
Anglo-Saxons	The Angles and Saxons tribes who ruled Britain before the Vikings.	
Danegeld	Money paid to Vikings by Anglo-Saxons to stop them invading.	
Edward the Confessor	One of the last Anglo-Saxon kings before the Normans took over Britain in 1066AD. He ruled over England from 1042AD to 1066AD.	
Exile	To be sent away.	
Invade	Entering and taking an area or country by force.	
Kingdom	An area ruled by a king or queen.	
Monastery	A building where people worship and devote time to God.	
Outlawed	Being banned from living in the community.	
Pagan	Someone who follows the Paganism religion worshipping many gods	
Peace Treaty	An agreement to end a fight and to fix the reason for the conflict.	
Pillaged	To violently steal something.	
Plunder	To take something away by force.	
Raid	A surprise attack.	
Runes	Scripture/writing carved using tools into stone, bone, wood or metal	
Saxons	Tribes from Germany who settled in Britain from 450AD.	
Settlement	A place where people have come to live and have built homes.	
Sheriff	A man who worked for an Earl. He ensured law and order was kept.	
Vikings	People from Scandinavia who invaded Britain in 793AD.	
Wergild	A payment system where a criminal pays their victim or their family.	

Previous Knowledge

In Year 1, you learnt to use timelines effectively; make historical comparisons; and about significant historical events. In Year 2, you learnt to identify the impact of historical events; use sources to support your knowledge; and began to understand sequencing on a timeline. This year, you learnt about the tools, homes, food, culture and practices from Ancient Rome, Ancient Egypt and the Anglo-Saxons. This included how Britain changed throughout these periods.

Timeline of historical events:

- 700,000 BCE – 2500 BCE: The Stone Age
- 2500 BCE – 146 BCE: Ancient Greece
- 43 CE: Romans invade Britain
- 793: Viking raid on Lindisfarne
- 1066–1485: Medieval monarchs
- 1760: Industrial Revolution
- Twentieth-Century Conflict

Additional events:

- 1600 BCE – 1046 BCE: Shang Dynasty
- 0 CE
- 450: Anglo-Saxons start to settle in Britain
- 900–1897: Benin Kingdom
- 1300: Ottoman Empire
- 1954–1965: Civil Rights Movement

Key historical events:

- AD 700:** The Vikings begin to venture out of Scandinavia.
- AD 850:** After many raids, Vikings begin to settle. Picts defend the north.
- AD 901:** King Alfred of Wessex fought the Vikings - peace was made and Danelaw was created.
- AD 1066:** England's King, Edward the Confessor, dies and Harold Godwinson is crowned king. His throne is challenged by King Harald Hardrada of Norway and Duke William of Normandy. His army is eventually his army is defeated by that of William of Normandy, during the Battle of Hastings. King Harold is killed and the Vikings eventually stop raiding.

Reasons for raiding and invading:

- Anglo-Saxon churches and monasteries were rich, easy to reach, and not well guarded.
- Viking culture glorified battles and raiding – it was how people got respect.
- England had better farmland and a warmer climate than Scandinavia.
- Younger sons in Viking families went raiding because only the eldest son got any land.
- Viking longships made raiding possible – the Vikings could travel up rivers, attack settlements, then make a quick getaway.

Key Facts

- Anglo-Saxons invaded and settled in Britain after the Romans and developed 7 kingdoms in Britain.
- In 793AD, Vikings left Scandinavia to raid England.
- The Vikings were skilled traders and seafarers who were good at farming, fishing, crafting and hunting.
- The Vikings raided Britain repeatedly, setting up bases and taking land and money, particularly from monasteries who were rich and poorly defended.
- In 869AD, King Edmund got an army to fight the Vikings, but the army was defeated and King Edmund was killed.

- King 'Alfred the Great' defeated the Vikings and it was agreed the Vikings would occupy the northeast of England while the southwest would remain Anglo-Saxon territory. King Alfred became 'King of all England' uniting the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in the south.
- In 1016, all of England was ruled under one Anglo-Saxon king.
- In 1066, the Battle of Hastings happened, resulting in the end of the Anglo-Saxon and Viking rule in Britain.

Key Questions

- Why is this period often called 'The Dark Ages'?
- When did the Vikings first invade Britain?
- Which cities did the Vikings invade?
- How did the Vikings gain control of Northeast England?
- How did the Vikings travel?
- What happened on a Viking raid?
- What ended the era of Anglo-Saxon and Viking rule?
- Was Alfred The Great really 'great'?
- What evidence do we have of the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons? What does this tell us about how they lived?
- Can we still see any evidence of Viking or Anglo-Saxon rule in modern day Britain? How do we know this?

Timeline of events

449 CE	Angles and Saxons begin to settle in Britain
793 CE	Viking attack on Lindisfarne
865 CE	Great Heathen Army invades
878 CE	Battle of Edington – King Alfred defeats Guthrum; Guthrum is then baptised
927 CE	Athelstan unites the English kingdoms
991 CE	The English lose a great battle against the Vikings: the Battle of Maldon
1013 CE	King Sweyn Forkbeard invades and becomes King of England
1016 CE	Canute becomes King of England