

Questions

Record your answers in complete sentences

Read the text carefully and then answer the following questions in as much detail as you can.

1. When did the Vikings first arrive in Britain?

2. 'In AD 793 the Vikings raided and pillaged the monastery at Lindisfarne'. What does this mean?

3. Why did the Vikings like to raid monasteries?

4. Why did the Vikings begin to settle permanently in Britain? Find three reasons.

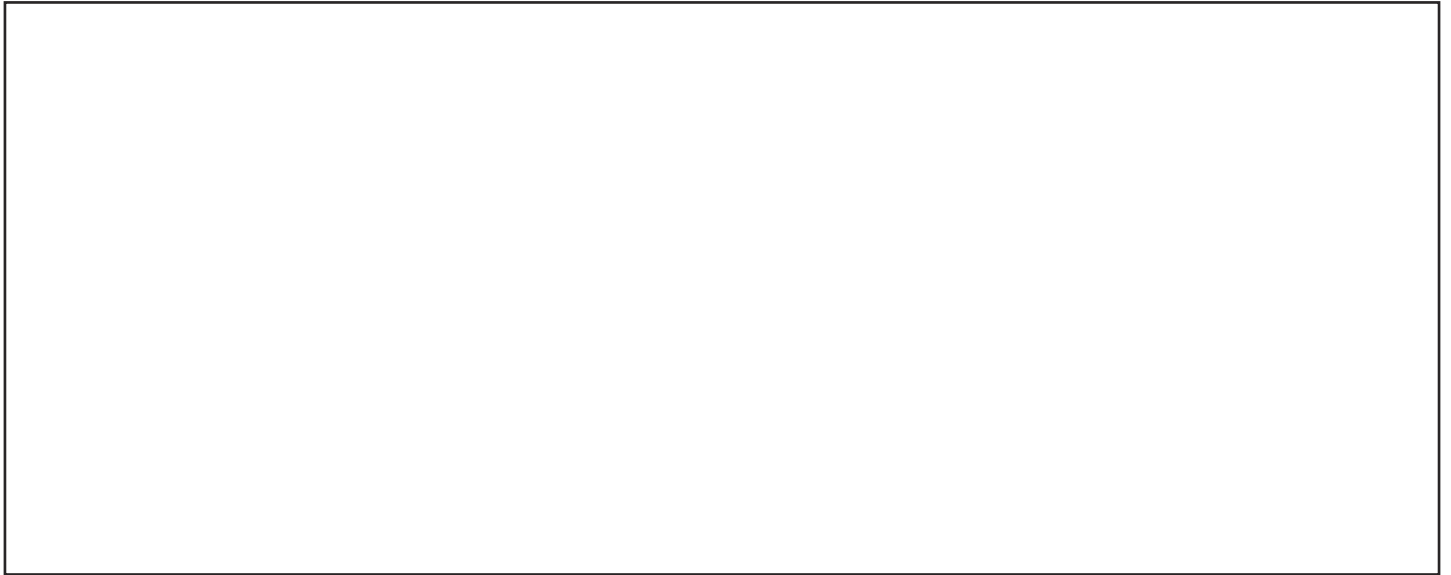
5. Which city did the Vikings take over in AD 866?

6. How do you think the Vikings felt when they captured this city?

7. How was King Alfred the Great successful in fighting the Vikings?

8. Find three ways in which the Vikings make good warriors.

9. Draw and label a Viking helmet, shield or sword and describe its features in detail.



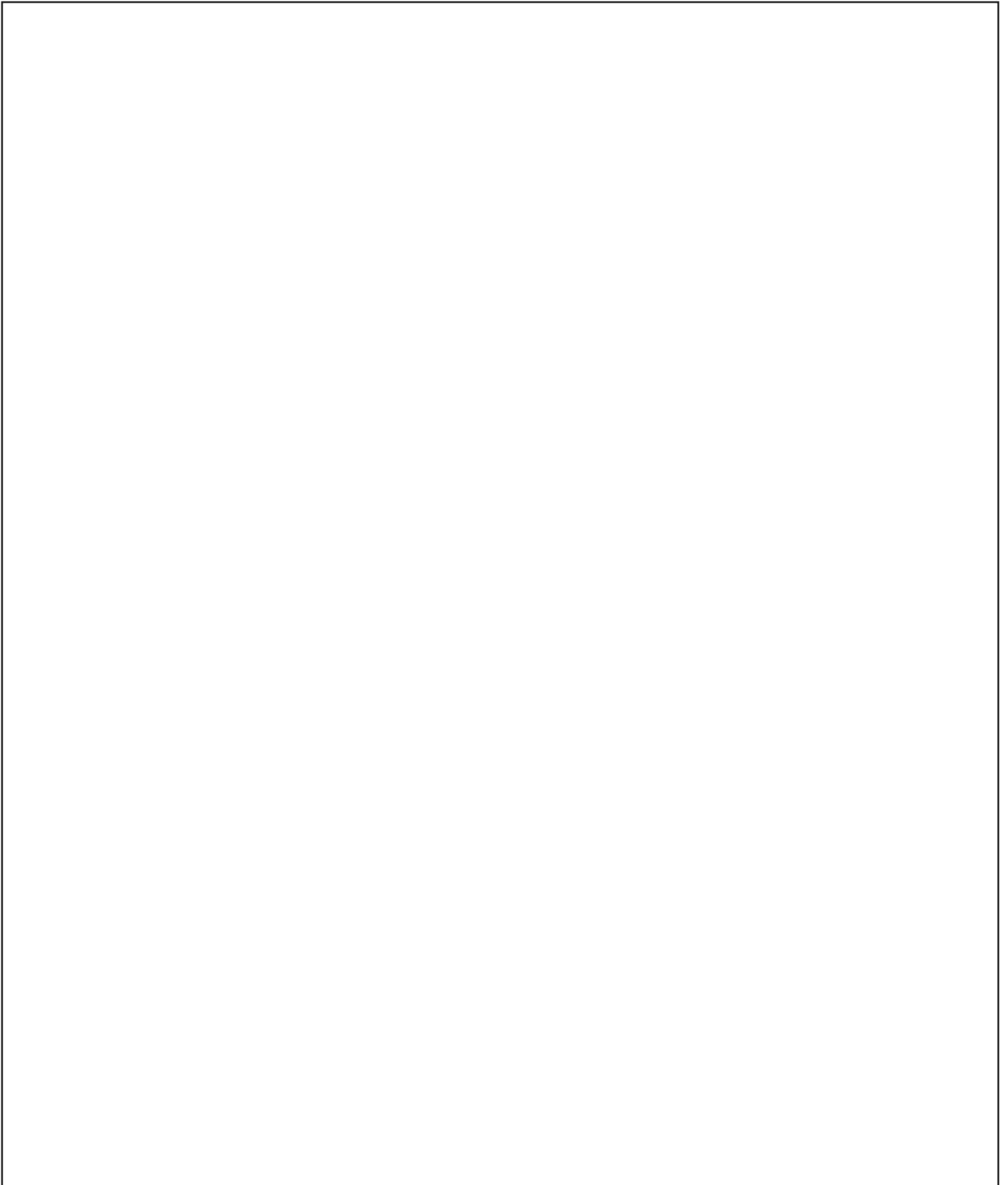
10. If you were a Viking warrior, what would be your weapon of choice? Why?

11. Why were the Viking warriors so fearless in battle?

12. Imagine you lived in Britain in AD 793. Describe how you might have felt meeting a Viking for the first time.

Challenge:

Can you draw and label what you think a Viking warrior might have looked like?



Answers

1. When did the Vikings first arrive in Britain?
The Vikings arrived in Britain in AD 787. They came to find better land for farming. Some historians believe that the areas they came from, modern-day Norway, Sweden and Denmark, had become overcrowded and there was not enough land for everyone.
2. 'In AD793, the Vikings raided and pillaged the monastery at Lindisfarne'.
What does this mean?
Raided and pillaged means to invade, attack and steal belongings from the monks in the monastery.
3. Why did the Vikings like to raid monasteries?
The Vikings liked to raid monasteries because they were not well protected and had many valuable things to steal.
4. Why did the Vikings begin to settle permanently in Britain? Find three reasons.
The Vikings began to settle permanently in Britain because of the mild climate, the rich natural resources and the desire to integrate with the British people.
5. Which city did the Vikings take over in AD866?
The Vikings took over York in AD 866.
6. How do you think the Vikings felt when they captured this city?
The Vikings must have felt delighted that they had at last taken a city to settle in.
7. How was King Alfred the Great successful in fighting the Vikings?
Alfred the Great was successful at driving the Vikings from the South of England in AD 871 at the Battle of Ashdown.
8. Find three ways in which the Vikings make good warriors.
The Vikings made good warriors because they were excellent fighters, very organised and were brave in battle.
9. Draw and label a Viking helmet, shield or sword and describe its features in detail.
10. If you were a Viking warrior, what would be your weapon of choice? Why?
Responses could include; axe, spear, sword or shield, with plausible reasoning.
11. Why were the Viking warriors so fearless in battle?
Viking warriors were fearless in battle because they believed that if they died in battle they would go to Valhalla.

12. Imagine you lived in Britain in AD 793. Describe how you might have felt meeting a Viking for the first time.

Various plausible responses based on information from the text and referring to the warrior characteristics of the Vikings, their fighting skills, their reasons for invading Britain and the effect of these aspects on the people they invaded.

Challenge:

Can you draw and label what you think a Viking warrior might have looked like?