

Vikings vs Anglo-Saxons

History

Year 5/6

Lesson 6 of 7

Learning Objective		Resources
To find out how and when England became a unified country.		Slides Worksheet 6A/6B Sentence Cards Character Cards Digital cameras, props, costumes - optional (FSD? activity only)
Teaching Input		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain that by the 900s, the Anglo-Saxon kings were enjoying a 'golden age'. King Edgar, who ruled from 959 to 975, was admired across Europe and England was enjoying a more peaceful and prosperous era. The Vikings still occupied the Danelaw but the two kingdoms remained separate. However, this golden age was not to last. By 1016, England had become a unified country under the control of a single Viking king. Why do you think this might have happened? How could a prosperous dynasty have ended? Invite children to share their ideas. Tell children that their task today will be to find out what happened and that to do that, they will need to find out about some key historical figures. Show children the names on the slides. Have you heard of any of these people? How could we find out about them? Discuss ideas as a class. 		
Main Activity		
<p><u>Lower ability:</u></p> <p>Provide children with the Character Cards in small groups. Children to read through the cards one at a time and use the information to establish how England became a unified country under the control of a Viking king. Children to then order the Sentence Cards chronologically and stick on the flow diagram on worksheet 6A.</p>	<p><u>Middle ability:</u></p> <p>Provide children with the Character Cards in small groups. Children to read through the cards one at a time and use the information to establish how England became a unified country under the control of a Viking king. On worksheet 6A, children to complete the flow diagram to show what happened and when.</p>	<p><u>Higher ability:</u></p> <p>Challenge children to find out how England came to be under the control of a single king using a variety of sources of information. Children to find out about each of the key characters on worksheet 6B and record what they find out. Challenge children to then write a historical account of what happened between the reigns of Edgar and Cnut.</p>
Fancy something different...?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask children to get into groups of at least six. Give each child in the group one of the Character Cards (A or B depending on ability). Children to read through their card and establish the main events as a group. Challenge children in their groups to create a short sketch about how England came to have a Viking king. Other children in the group could act as soldiers, peasants or other people in the story. Alternatively, allocate a child to direct, other children to be the film crew (recording the completed role-play) or costume and prop managers. Once children have had some time to rehearse their sketches, invite them to perform them for the rest of the class, or video and play them. Have they covered all the main events? 		
Plenary	Assessment Questions	
<p>Ask children to recap the main events. What do you think were the main reasons that the Vikings were able to take control? Was it the youth of Ethelred? Was it the determination of the Danes? Was it the murder of Edward? Discuss ideas as a class.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do children know that by 1016, England was a unified country under the control of a single king? Can children name the key historical figures and describe their role in events? Can children discuss causes and effects of historical events? 	