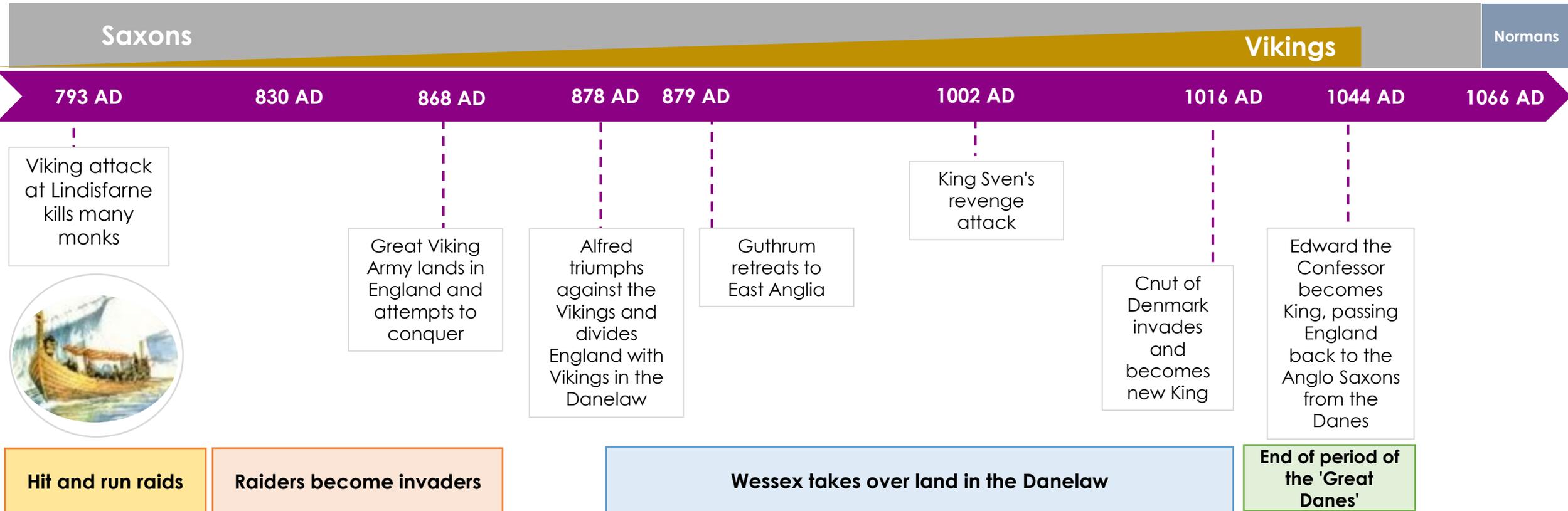




## Why this period is important

Probably one of the most captivating of KS2 history topics, the Vikings present wonderful opportunities to capitalise on pupils' fascination and to do some in-depth work on using sources and interpretations in particular. Not only do pupils learn that our stereotypical view of the Vikings needs to be challenged they also draw on their knowledge of sources to help them to explain why the Vikings had such a bad press and how recent archaeological finds can be used to restore the Vikings' reputation as settlers, skilled craftsmen and traders, and not just raiders. Best taught alongside the Anglo-Saxons with whom they fought for control for almost two centuries, the period in which England as a nation emerged for the first time.





## Who's who?

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Alfred</b>          | Saxon king who decisively defeated the Viking army in 878 and earned the reputation as 'great'   |
| <b>Cnut</b>            | Ruled England from between 10126 and 1035 as well as Norway and Denmark  |
| <b>Guthrum</b>         | One of the leaders of the Great Army who was successful before Alfred beat him. He was later baptised as a Christian and retreated to East Anglia in 879 |
| <b>Sweyn Forkbeard</b> | Ruled Denmark and was Warrior King from 986 until 1014 and for a few weeks was King of England   |

## Key vocabulary

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Danegeld</b> | protection money paid by Saxons to bribe Vikings not to attack their lands  |
| <b>Danelaw</b>  | large part of Eastern England where the Danes settled in the late 9 <sup>th</sup> century with their own laws and culture |
| <b>Heathen</b>  | person who does not accept a religion that says there is only one god   |
| <b>Hoard</b>    | hidden collection of treasure   |
| <b>Pagan</b>    | person who believes in more than one god  |
| <b>Runes</b>    | Viking writing  |
| <b>Saga</b>     | long story about Viking heroes, spoken at first but later written down  |

## Top takeaways



1. The word Viking means raider (and they certainly did a lot of that! ) but they were also traders and settlers, especially later in the period
2. They attacked England from Scandinavia carrying out raids on monasteries which is why the monks criticised them so much
3. For many years They fought hard against the Saxons for control of England but were stopped by Alfred. They then settled in the East with some becoming kings of England at the end of the Saxon period
4. They were highly skilled shipbuilders, taking them vast distances across dangerous seas
5. They did not worship a single god but made offerings to a large number such as Odin (Wednesday named after him) Thor ( Thursday )and Freya (Friday)



## Previous Learning

### In Year 1 and Year 2

- Children learn how technology and daily life changed over time. Great Fire of London caused widespread destruction and led to city planning reforms. Use of diaries and sources of evidence.

### In Year 3

- Children learn how early people lived, farmed, built settlements and developed tools. Stone Age huts

### In Year 4

- The idea of empire, invasion and the beginning of urbanisation. Romans invaded Britain, Roman control was centralised and empire-led. Resistance of Boudicca vs Romans. Use of artefacts coins, villas, Latin inscriptions

## Future Learning

### In Year 6

- Children learn the impact of invasion, evacuation and migration during World War Two.
- Children learn about resistance movements.
- Role of empire soldiers, including Black and Asian troops from the Commonwealth. Interpreting sources
- Children learn about migration stories from Africans in Roman Britain, the Windrush, building a broader understanding of how Britain's population has always been diverse.
- Children evaluate bias, perspective and reliability.