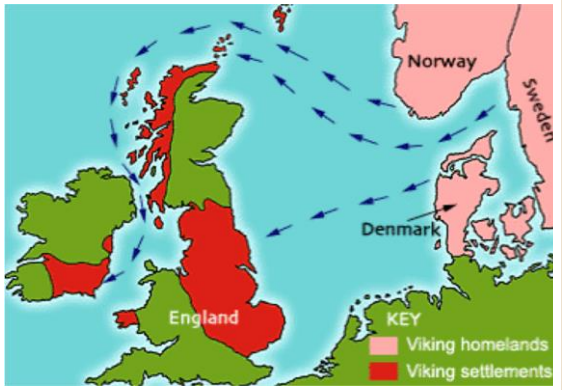


# ANGLO-SAXONS & VIKINGS



## The Vikings



## Overview

Several Viking raids took place during the 8<sup>th</sup> Century with the first being the raid of Lindisfarne in 793. Vikings were mainly from Denmark, Norway and Sweden and it is not known for certain why they started to raid and settle in other countries. Within a century Vikings had taken over large parts of the land in Northern England. By 884, after years of battles, a treaty was agreed that left the Vikings ruling over the North and the Anglo-Saxons ruling the large Kingdom of Wessex.

## Key People

-  King Alfred - King of Wessex from 871 to 899, defended Wessex from the Viking invaders
-  Athelstan - First King to unite English kingdoms in 927
-  Guthrum - King of the Vikings in Danelaw at the time of the treaty with the Saxons
-  King Cnut - King of England, Denmark and Norway between 1028 and 1035
-  Edward the Confessor - penultimate Saxon King of England (before Harold who lost The Battle of Hastings)

## Power Struggles

In 865, a large army was raised to conquer England, The Great Heathen Army. Over the next 10 years the Vikings took over more and more land, leading to Wessex as the only unconquered kingdom.

Battles between the two groups continued until the Battle of Edington, after which The Treaty of Alfred and Guthrum was signed, separating England into two parts.

The two groups co-existed until 954. A series of Saxon kings then ruled until Edward the Confessor became King of England.

## Vocabulary

**Raid:** To go somewhere to look for something to steal. **Treaty:** An agreement between two or more groups of people. **Danegeld:** A tax paid by Anglo-Saxons to Viking raiders to protect their land. **Invaders:** An army that uses force to take control of another country.