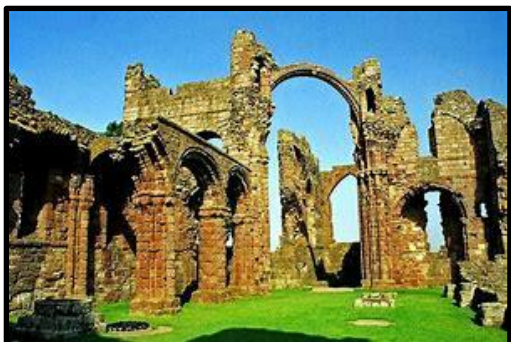


# Y4 History – Anglo-Saxons and Vikings in Britain

## Overview

Several Viking raids took place during the 8th Century, with increasing numbers towards the end of the century. The period is often considered to have begun with the raiding of Lindisfarne in 793. Vikings were largely from Denmark, Norway and Sweden and it is not known for certain why they began to raid other lands and settle in places such as England. Within a century Vikings had taken over large parts of the land in northern England, although failed to over-rule the large kingdom of Wessex. By 884, after years of battles, a treaty was agreed that left Vikings ruling over 'Danelaw' in the north of England.



Viking Monastery at Lindisfarne



Danegeld Silver Coin

## Key Individuals



King Alfred - King of Wessex from 871 to 899, defended Wessex from the Viking invaders



Athelstan - First King to unite English kingdoms in 927



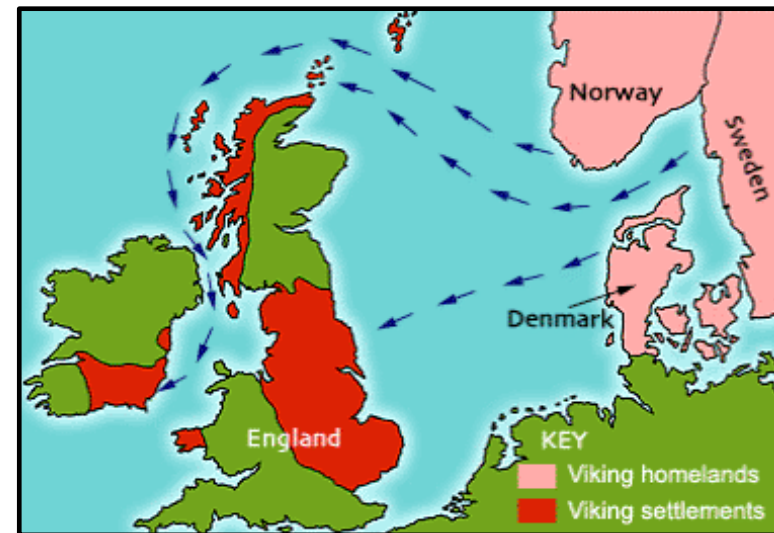
Guthrum - King of the Vikings in Danelaw at the time of the treaty with the Saxons



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)



## Viking Britain

### Vocabulary

<b>Raid</b>	To go somewhere to look for something to steal
<b>Treaty</b>	An agreement between two or more groups of people
<b>Danegeld</b>	A tax paid by Anglo-Saxons to Viking raiders in order to protect their land
<b>Pagan</b>	Someone who has a religious belief that differs from the major world religions.
<b>Invaders</b>	An army that uses force to enter and take control of another country



# Y4 History – Anglo-Saxons and Vikings in Britain

## Changing Times

- After years of small-scale attacks and invasions, and the start of the main attacks in 793, Viking incursions continued into the 9th Century.
- In 865, a large army was raised to conquer England, known in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle as the Great Heathen Army. The Army landed in East Anglia and reached York by the following year.
- Over the next 10 years the Vikings took over more land, leading to Wessex as the only unconquered kingdom.
- Battles between the two groups continued until the Battle of Edington, at which King Alfred (the Great) defeated the Vikings. The Treaty of Alfred and Guthrum was agreed which essentially separated England into parts ruled by the Saxons and by the Vikings.
- The two populations co-existed, although not without on-going battles, until 954. In this year, Eric Bloodaxe – king of the Vikings – was killed, perhaps as part of an argument between the Vikings, from which time the Saxon king, Eadred took control of the kingdom.
- Following this, a series of Saxon kings ruled, interrupted by the reign of Danish king Swen and later Cnut and his grandsons, before Edward the Confessor became King of England.



## Life in Saxon and Viking Britain

Traditional Viking families had men working the land, with a wife taking care of the home and of the family valuables. Clothes and housing were not dissimilar from those in the rest of England. There was little furniture in the single-room homes and certainly no bathroom – most families used a cesspit for discarding waste. When they first arrived, most Vikings followed pagan religions, but soon converted to Christianity as they became settled in England.



## European Expedition