

Anglo-Saxons & Vikings: The Struggle for Britain

How did the arrival of Vikings change Britain?

Viking	A collective name for seagoing raiders who were based in Scandinavia (modern Norway, Sweden and Denmark). They can also be referred to as "Northmen" or "Norsemen".
Trade	This means buying, selling or swapping valuable goods so that you can get the things you need in exchange for your unwanted things.
Longship	A Viking ship known for its stability and its flat bottom. It was capable of crossing open sea but could also be rowed easily up rivers.
Raiding	A sudden, quick attack aimed at startling unready opponents, stealing their valuables and returning home before they can fight back properly.
Invade/invasion	This is when a large attacking force moves into an opponent's territory in order to do battle with the defending forces. The aim is usually conquest.
Conquer/conquest	This means defeating an opponent's forces then taking over their land and using their resources for yourself.
Settle/settlement	This means people have decided to live permanently in a certain place. This usually means they are building homes and planting farms.
Danelaw	This was the name given to territory in Britain under Danish (Viking) rule.
Danegeld	This means "Dane gold", a payment made by Anglo-Saxons to Vikings in exchange for peace. If you did not pay your Danegeld, the Vikings might come and take it by force.
Expel	This means sending people away. In war it means you have beaten your opponents and forced them to leave your land (or perhaps forced them to leave the whole of Britain).



Viking longship



Vikings attacking an Anglo-Saxon "shield wall".



The Danelaw changed shape and size as a result of war.



The Viking Kingdom of York



Alfred the Great



Harold Godwinson



Harald Hardrada



William the Conqueror



The Battle of Hastings

1066