

# Raiders of the Past!

## What was life like before the Vikings?

After the Romans withdrew from Britain in 410 AD, the British people were left fighting among themselves and were vulnerable to invasion once again!

From around 450 AD, Britain came under attack from invaders made up of three groups: The Angles, The Saxons and The Jutes. By around 600 AD, the south and east of Britain was occupied by invaders.

## How did most Anglo-Saxon men and women live?

### Did you know...

The Anglo-Saxons loved tales of adventure but the majority of them couldn't read or write, so they passed the stories along by reciting them and re-telling them, often through songs! The stories usually included heroes, kings, monsters and faraway places and were usually about bravery, loyalty, good and evil.

## Who were the Vikings?

Around 789 AD, the first of many long and low ships appeared off the coast of Wessex and started the beginning of many terrifying raids. The attackers stole valuables from settlers, killed anyone who tried to defend their village and sailed away.

These fearsome raiders were warriors known as Vikings!

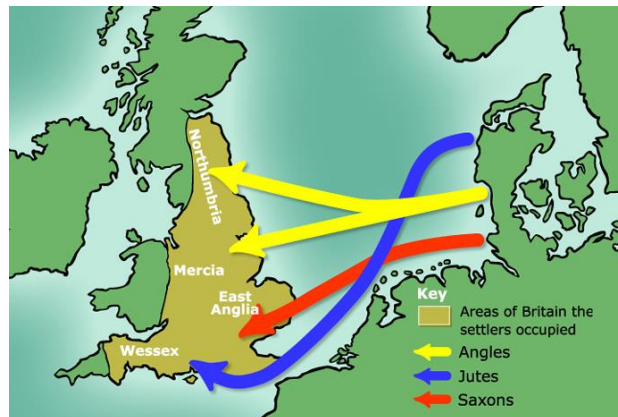
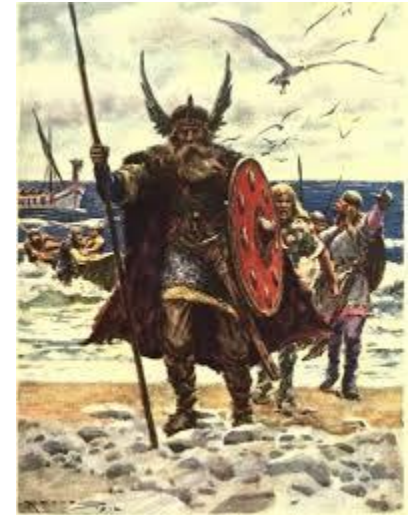
## Where did the Vikings come from? Why did they leave their homeland to raid Britain?

By 860, the Vikings had started to conquer Britain. Danish Vikings had taken over Northumbria and East Anglia and were planning to attack Wessex (an Anglo-Saxon stronghold). At the same time, Vikings from Norway were attacking Scotland and parts of Ireland.

## What happened to the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings?

### Who was victorious?

Is this an accurate appearance of a Viking warrior? Can you find out any more about what they really looked like?



## Viking Gods and Legends

Although they were enemies, the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings had much in common, for example, their religions were based on war-like Gods. The Vikings believed that dying in battle was a great honour that would allow them into a special paradise: Valhalla.

Some of the main Gods they believed in were:

Odin

Thor.

Freya

Can you find out what their special powers are?

Or, what they look like?

## Why did they invade Britain?

Much of the land where Vikings came from had many rivers, lakes and were surrounded by water. This meant that they soon became excellent shipbuilders and navigators.

Can you find out any more about what their homeland was like at this time?