

Edenfield C of E Primary School- History

Topic: Vikings and the Anglo Saxons until the Norman Invasion

Year: 6

Strand: British History

What should I already know?

- In AD 43, the Romans, under the control of Emperor Claudius, first invaded Britain and Roman rule lasted until AD 410
- Anglo-Saxons had invaded and settled in Britain since 410 AD
- Anglo-Saxons converted to Christianity
- What life was like for an Anglo-Saxon
- That Vikings were beginning to invade Britain by 789 AD
- An archaeologist is someone who studies the past by looking at old remains

Did the Vikings invade all of Britain?

- In the 9th century, Alfred the Great stopped the Vikings taking control of all of England and agreed to a peace deal where Vikings settled living in their own area called 'Danelaw.'
- After Alfred the Great, English kings gradually took control of more land from the Vikings
- Ethelred the Unready was a weak king in early 11th century and lost control to the Vikings- Canute, a Viking king became king of all of England.

What will I know by the end of the unit?

Where did the Vikings come from and why did they start to invade Britain?

- Vikings came from Scandinavia (Denmark/Sweden/Norway) by longboat
- Some people believe they were raiders wanting to steal treasures from wealthy monasteries
- Others believe they were simply traders looking for better land to settle and work from
- Only the eldest Viking son would inherit the land, so younger sons needed to find somewhere else to settle
- They attacked Lindisfarne and Northern Britain (Scotland)
- They invaded areas along the East such as York

Who was Alfred the Great and why was he important?

- He was the king of Wessex in the south
- He encouraged people to learn and he tried to govern fairly. He successfully defended his kingdom against the Vikings. He also introduced wide-ranging reforms including defence measures and laws and coinage.

Who were the Normans and why did they invade Britain?

- The King of England in 1066 was Edward the Confessor. He died without any issue and this left a problem for the English throne
- Harold Godwinson was chosen as king but William of Normandy (Edward's nephew living in France) was also promised the throne
- The Normans invaded Britain and Harold was killed in battle at the Battle of Hastings

How did William win the Battle of Hastings?

- Harold Godwinson had just fought a battle against the Norse king Harold Hardrada at the Battle of Stamford
- Harold and his men were tired but marched hundreds of mile south to meet William
- The Normans fought on horseback and were well organised and skilled fighters
- Harold was unprepared and did not have enough fighting men

Vocabulary

Anglo-Saxon	the name given to the people who came from Germany and South Denmark who settled in Britain around 410 AD
Alfred the Great	The first king of England. He was the King of Wessex, the most powerful Saxon kingdom at the time
Danelaw	The name given to parts of the country ruled by the laws of the Danes/Vikings
Christianity	A religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ
invasion	Attacking and conquering another country
Lindisfarne	A small island off the coast of the North East of England. A wealthy monastery could be found there
migration	The movement from one place to another to settle there
monk	A member of a male religious community
Ethelred the Unready	King of England from 978 to 1013. He was a weak king and lost land to the Vikings.
Canute, King of the Danes	After Ethelred, Canute became king. He was already king of the Danish and ruled England as a Viking king.
Edward the Confessor	King of England in 1042. He died without any issue and promised two people the throne
Harold Godwinson	King after Edward. He was chosen by the 'Witten' but many contested his claim
Harold Hardrada	King of the Norse. He thought the throne was his by right
William the Conqueror	William of Normandy was promised the throne by Edward. He invaded England in 1066 and defeated Harold at the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

Key Dates/Timeline		
Date	Event	Description
600 AD	Anglo-Saxons gradually take over Britain	
793 AD	The Vikings attacked from Norway	The Vikings came from Scandinavia and raided the South East coast of England before taking land in the East
871 AD	Alfred the Great becomes King of Wessex	Alfred wins back control of England and creates 'Danelaw.'
924 AD	Athelstan becomes King of Wessex	The Anglo-Saxons win more land from the Vikings
939 AD	The Vikings raid England again and take back control	
1016 AD	Ethelred the Unready flees to France and Canute becomes King	The Vikings take control of England
1066 AD	Edward the Confessor dies	William of Normandy invades England and defeats Harold Godwinson at the Battle of Hastings.

