

The Viking and Anglo Saxon Struggle

KEY VOCABULARY AND SPELLINGS

AD – Anno Domini – used to show dates after the birth of Jesus

Scandinavia – The area made up of the countries Denmark, Sweden and Norway

Monastery – a building where people worship and devote their time to God

Settlement – a place where people have come to live

Kingdom – A country whose ruler is a king or queen

Conquer – to gain something by force

Viking Long ship – a long, wooden ship used by Vikings for raids

Danelaw – The area in Britain ruled by the Vikings

Valhalla – Where the Vikings believed warriors went after death.

Pagan – A person who believed in many gods



SOCIETY

WARFARE – both Anglo-Saxons and Vikings came to Britain to invade, then they settled here, hoping for a better life. They would use swords, shields, axes, spears, javelins and bows and arrows when fighting.



The Anglo-Saxons had different kings who ruled their own kingdoms. By 878AD there was only 1 kingdom left, Wessex, which was ruled by Alfred the Great. The other Kingdoms had been overrun by the Vikings. After years of fighting Alfred the Great and the Vikings made a peace agreement, however they did still fight. They created an imaginary dividing line through England with the Anglo-Saxons to the West and the Viking lands (Danelaw) to the East.



CHRONOLOGY

401-410AD	The Romans withdraw from Britain: Anglo Saxon migrants begin to settle
450AD	Anglo-Saxon invaders arrive in Britain
600AD	Anglo-Saxons gradually take over Britain
633AD	Lindisfarne monastery built
793AD	The Vikings attack and capture the city of York (Jorvik)
867-878AD	Series of Viking victories
871AD	Alfred the Great becomes King of Wessex
886AD	The Vikings and King Alfred divide England
954AD	Eric Bloodaxe, the last King of Jorvik, is thrown out of York
1014AD	King Canute (Cnut) of Denmark becomes King of England
1042AD	Edward the Confessor becomes king
1066AD	King Harold is killed in the Battle of Hastings William I (the Conqueror) crowned King of England
1100AD	End of the Viking age

LOCATION

Anglo-Saxons came from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands and settled in Angle-land or England.

The Vikings came from Scandinavia (the countries Denmark, Norway and Sweden).

LEGACY

Many shires established by the Anglo-Saxons are still used as boundaries today.

Many towns and cities in Britain today were founded by the Vikings; places that end in -by, -thorpe or -ay are most certainly Viking towns.

SOCIETY

AGRICULTURE – Anglo-Saxons and Vikings were farmers and kept animals and grew crops. They were also craft workers who made objects from wood and metal.

FAMILY LIFE – Anglo-Saxons usually had their homes near forests so they had a good source of wood and water. Their houses were made from wood with thatched roofs and had only 1 room where everyone ate, cooked, slept and entertained their friends.

Viking families lived together in a longhouse, which were also made of wood and had a thatched roof. There would be a central fire in the room used for heating and cooking.



BELIEFS – Anglo-Saxons and Vikings were pagans, they believed in many gods who were in charge of different parts of life. Vikings believed that if they died bravely in battle they would be taken to Valhalla, a great feasting hall in the afterlife where they could eat and drink with the gods.