

Was it ever right to Invade? (The Vikings)

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 Timeline

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AD 700: The Viking age begins.

AD 793: First invasion by the Vikings. They raided monasteries on the coast including Lindisfarne, off the coast of Northumbria.

AD 794: First raids on Scotland and Ireland.

AD 865: Great Viking army from Denmark invades England

AD 866: Danes capture York (which the Viking called Jorvik) and make it their kingdom (land ruled by a king)

AD 876: Vikings from Denmark, Norway and Sweden settle permanently in England.

AD 886: King Alfred the Great defeats the Vikings but allows them to settle in Eastern England.

AD 954: Eric Bloodaxe, the last king of Jorvik, is thrown out of York

AD 1001: Vikings land in America and establish a settlement.

AD 1014: King Canute (Cnut) of Denmark becomes King of England.

AD 1066: Battle of Hastings occurred; William I (the Conqueror) crowned King of England.

AD 1100: End of the Viking age.

What have the Vikings ever done for us?

The English language was greatly affected by the invasions of the Vikings, in particular through town and village names in the north and east of England. It is also thought that Vikings may have been the first Europeans to have explored the Americas, around 1000. The Vikings also were responsible for the world's now oldest parliament – the Tynwald – in the Isle of Man.

Key questions to ask yourself

How and where did the Vikings trade?

What did the Vikings value?

Were all Vikings vicious?

Fun Facts

Vikings didn't wear horned helmets!

Depictions dating from the Viking age don't show it, and the only authentic Viking helmet ever discovered is decidedly horn-free.

Language of a Historian

Ancient	Ancient means belonging to the distant past, especially to the period in history before the end of the Roman Empire.
Artefact	An artefact is a man-made object , such as pieces of art or tools, that is of particular cultural, historical or archaeological interest.
Chronology	The arrangement of events or dates in order of their occurrence.
Past	Gone by in time, or no longer existing.
traditional	Existing in or as part of a tradition: long-established,
sources	Something that tells us about history. It may be a document, recording, a picture,, a book, a short film or an object.

Language of a Viking

Chieftain	The leader of a village or small group of people
Danelaw	The area of England ruled by the Vikings
Freeman	A person who is not a slave and free to choose who he or she worked for
Longship	A Viking ship with a sail and oars, also called a dragon-ship
Monastery	The building where monks live
Pagan	A person who believed in many gods
Trader	A person who sells goods