

# Frogwell School Year 5 Knowledge Organiser Term 1

## What did the Vikings want in Britain and how did King Alfred stop them?

410AD	The Romans leave Britain.
660AD	The Anglo-Saxons control most of Britain – in AD550 it was broken up into small kingdoms (see below).
790AD	First Viking raids on Britain.
793AD	Attack on Lindisfarne (the first planned Viking raid).
871AD	Alfred the Great becomes King of Wessex.
878AD	Battle at Chippenham, many of Alfred's men are killed. However, his army beat the Danish Vikings. Alfred and Guthrum make a treaty.
924AD	Athelstan becomes King of Mercia.
928AD	Athelstan retakes York from the Vikings and becomes the first King of England.
978AD	New Viking raids after King Aethelred the Unready is crowned.
1002AD	Aethelred takes revenge on the Vikings, he orders all Danish men to be killed.
1042AD	Edward becomes King – he becomes known as Edward the Confessor.
1066AD	Battle of Hastings

### The 7 Kingdoms



### Map of Viking Raids



archaeologist	An expert who studies objects from the past to find out more.	missionaries	Someone who makes it their mission to convert people to a particular religion.
conquer	To take control of a place or people by military force.	monastery	A building where people worship and devote their time to God.
excavation	To uncover something by digging and removing the earth that covers it.	ritual	A ceremony or series of acts, always performed in the same way.
fertile (land)	Capable of producing crops.	Scandinavia	The area that is made up of the countries: Norway, Sweden and Denmark.
kingdom	A country whose ruler is a king or a queen.	treaty	A written agreement between two states.

## Who were the Vikings?

The Viking age in European history was from about AD700 to 1100. During this period many Vikings left their homelands in Scandinavia and travelled by longboat to other countries, like Britain and Ireland. Vikings sailed the seas trading goods to buy silver, silks, spices, wine, jewellery, glass and pottery to bring back to their homes. When the people of Britain first saw the Viking longboats they came down to the shore to welcome them. However, the Vikings fought the local people, stealing from churches and burning buildings to the ground. Viking warriors fought using long swords and axes. The people of Britain called the invaders 'Danes', but they came from Norway and Sweden as well as Denmark.

The name 'Viking' comes from a language called 'Old Norse' and means 'a pirate raid'. People who went off raiding in ships were said to be 'going Viking'. But not all the Vikings were bloodthirsty warriors. Some came to fight, but others came peacefully. Their long ships brought families who settled in villages. There were farmers, who kept animals and grew crops, and skilful craft workers, who made beautiful metalwork and wooden carvings. Everyone lived together in a large home called a longhouse. The Vikings also brought with them their way of life and beliefs. The Norse people worshipped many gods and loved to tell stories of magic and monsters around the fire.



**Viking Long boat**



**Viking Longhouse**

## King Alfred the Great (849-899)

Late in 871, the Danes invaded Wessex, and Aethelred and Alfred fought several battles with them. Aethelred died in 871, and Alfred succeeded him. After an unsuccessful battle at Wilton he made peace. It was probably the quality of the West Saxon resistance that discouraged Danish attacks for five years. In 876 the Danes again advanced on Wessex. They retired in 877 having accomplished little, but a surprise attack in January 878 came near to success. The Danes established themselves at Chippenham, and the West Saxons submitted, "...except King Alfred." He harassed the Danes from a fort in the Somerset marshes, and until seven weeks after Easter he secretly assembled an army, which defeated them at the Battle of Edington.

