

WALT understand how the Viking armies took control of Britain

Can you answer these questions? (answers at the bottom of today's pages!)

1. When did the Vikings begin to invade Anglo Saxon Britain?
2. When did Viking age end?
3. Where did they come from?
4. Where did they settle?

Try to memorise this important information!

Today we will be looking at how the Vikings invaded and took control of areas in Britain.

What made the Vikings such successful warriors?

1. They were able to craft weapons and armour themselves, from metal and leather.
2. They were successful sailors, using longships and dragon boats to travel to different lands to raid and invade.
3. They had strong belief in their gods and believed dying in battle was honourable. Entry would be gained to heaven (Valhalla) if they were brave and brutal.

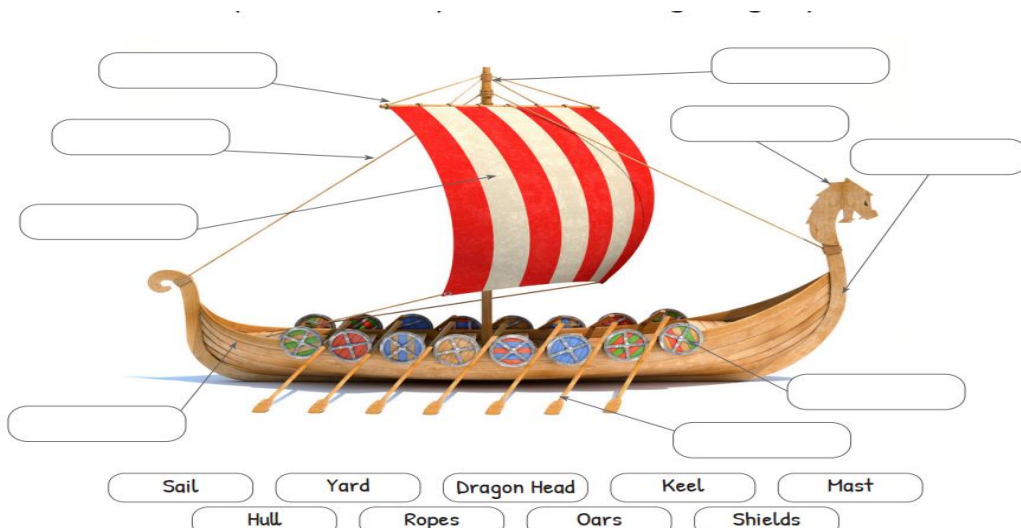


What were Viking armies like? How did they attack?

Small groups of Vikings attacked initially, landing on beaches and attacking small towns, and in time, larger armies approached. Viking longships could sail in shallow water so they could also travel up rivers and jump out to attack quickly. Click the link below to find out more about how the Vikings fought, their armour and the different parts of a longship.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztyr9j6/articles/zy9j2hv>

Task: Label the parts of the longship below:



It is 865AD. The Anglo-Saxons were settled in Britain. This is how the country looked:



Five years later, it would look like this:



Danelaw is an area of Britain where Vikings ruled.

Task: Read the information below and use it to complete the map/timeline sheet showing how the Vikings took control from the Anglo-Saxons. You can label the maps and use colours to show the different stages of their journey to take control.

865 AD: The Vikings had recruited an army and planned to invade and conquer Britain. They travelled from Scandinavia on longships and arrived in East Anglia. They tried to fight, however they were promised horses and gold if they remained peaceful and left the region.

866 AD: The Viking army headed north and settled for the winter in Northumbria. The Anglo-Saxons were unhappy with this and fought to remove them from the region. Danes (Vikings) capture York (which they called Jorvik) and make it their kingdom (land ruled by a king)

867 AD: The Vikings set sights on Mercia and captured the town of Nottingham. The Anglo-Saxons from Mercia joined forces with the region of Wessex to fight the Vikings, but they lost. They again had to pay more money in order for them to leave peacefully. The Vikings accepted and travelled back North.

869 AD: The Vikings set their sights on Wessex. Here they fought an Anglo-Saxon army and won. The Vikings agreed to leave the area two years later in 871 AD, after King Alfred the Great realised how strong they were. He paid them large sums of gold to stay away from Wessex.

874 AD: After leaving Wessex, the Vikings travelled north again and were able to take almost full control of Northumbria, Mercia and East Anglia. For many years they tried to conquer all of Britain but were forced to settle in the North. This part of the country became known as Danelaw.

Challenge - Many places in Britain can still be identified as having been created by Vikings - places ending in -by, -thorpe, -ay. Can you name any of these places?