

History - Monday 11th January 2021

WALT understand Viking ways of life

This week we will be learning about The Vikings way of life when they became settlers in Britain.

When did the Vikings settle in Britain?

The first Viking raid in Britain happened in approximately 787AD, however they did not settle in Britain until 874AD. Between these years The Vikings attempted to invade and conquer Britain, this meant they wanted to take control from the Anglo-Saxons. They were unsuccessful in many attempts however in 874AD they were forced to settle (this means they decided to stay and live permanently) in the North of England. This area was known as Danelaw.



This map shows the areas where The Vikings were able to take control of and settle.

What was Viking life like?

While some Vikings were bloodthirsty tyrants, many were peaceful and looking for a better quality of life than they had in Scandinavia. Many Viking families lived in longhouses. These were built from wood and would be one large room, where a whole family would live. Let's look at Viking jobs:



Vikings worked with iron and metal. Blacksmiths made armour and weapons for Viking soldiers.



Potters worked with clay and made pots. These would be very useful to cook in (and even go to the toilet!)



Vikings were incredible craftsmen and made fine jewellery from metal and gold.



Leatherworkers were incredibly important. They made leather armour for Viking warriors to wear into battle.



The Vikings moved to Britain due to poor farming conditions in their own countries, therefore many of their jobs were farmers. Farmers grew everything that their village would need including oats, vegetables and kept animals too.

Task: Can you design your own Viking village?



Annotate around the diagram remembering to include:

- A blacksmith
- A jewellers
- A potters
- A leather workshop
- A farm
- A long house

*Challenge: Can you write a sentence for each of your annotations
e.g. Describing what are blacksmiths was or why were they needed?*