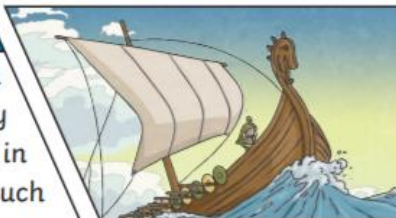
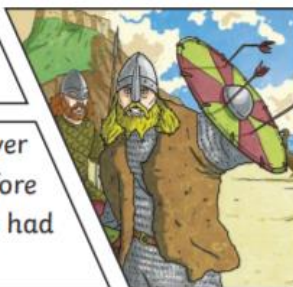


The Early Vikings

The Vikings came from the modern Scandinavian countries of Denmark, Norway and Sweden. They travelled in boats called **longships** and first arrived in Britain around AD 787. The Vikings **raided** places such as monasteries and **pillaged** expensive items to trade. They were looking for valuable goods like gold and jewels, imported foods and other useful materials.



The Vikings also wanted to claim land and tried to take over much of Britain. They **invaded** and settled in Scotland before heading south to places such as York. By AD 878 the Vikings had settled permanently in Britain.



Facts for Life

1. When the Anglo-Saxons first Settled in Britain, there were seven kingdoms, but by AD 878 there was just one kingdom left (Wessex) as the others had been overrun by the Vikings. Many Anglo-Saxon kings tried to resist the Vikings and fought hard to keep control of their land. *King Alfred the Great was the best known Anglo-Saxon king* and the first to defeat the Vikings in battle.
2. The Vikings had settled permanently in Britain by AD 878, having started invading and settling in Scotland before heading south to York.
3. The Vikings raided places such as monasteries and pillaged expensive items, such as gold, jewels, imported foods and other useful materials in order to trade.

Key Vocabulary

exile	To be sent away.
longship	A long, wooden narrow boat used by the Vikings.
outlawed	Having all property taken away and no longer being able to live in the community.
pagans	A religion where many gods and goddesses are worshipped.
pillaged	To violently steal something.
wergild	A payment system used to settle disputes between a criminal and the victim of their family.

Viking Life

Farms - Vikings lived on farms and kept cows, pigs and sheep for milk, wool and meat.

Houses - Walls made of stone or wood. A straw roof. Wattle and daub (sticks and mud/dung) for the inside of the walls.

Jewellery - Worn to show off how rich a person was.

Pagans - Vikings arrived as **pagans** but eventually converted to Christianity.

Sagas - Vikings used rhyme to tell stories about adventures and battles against monsters.

