

Why did the Vikings come to the British Isles and what was the impact?

Very Important Vocabulary

Vikings: The term "Viking" originally referred to Norse seafarers who engaged in raiding, trading, and exploring during the Viking Age, particularly from Scandinavia.

Scandinavia: Scandinavia refers to the region in Northern Europe that includes the countries of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, known for its shared cultural and historical heritage.

Lindisfarne: Lindisfarne, also known as Holy Island, is a small tidal island off the northeast coast of England, famous for its early Christian monastery and the Viking raid in 793 AD that marked the beginning of the Viking Age.

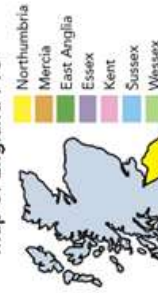
Traders: a person who buys and sells goods, currency, or shares.

Invaders: a person or group that invades a country, region, or other place.

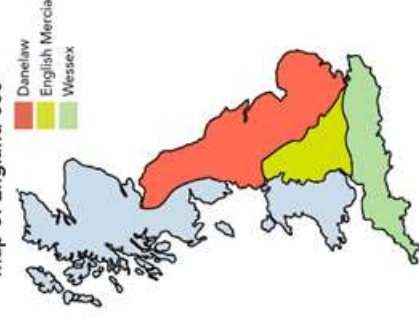
Kingdom: a country, state, or territory ruled by a king or queen.

Within just thirteen years, the Vikings had managed to occupy about a third of Britain. They established the Danelaw, a region where Norse laws and customs prevailed, solidifying their control over the eastern and northern parts of England. The speed and success of their conquest were due to their military prowess, the disunity among the Anglo-Saxon rulers, and their ability to adapt and integrate into the local population, which helped them maintain control over the newly acquired territories.

Map of England 793



Map of England 886



Homes were very similar for both Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. They were made from wood and mud with thatched roofs. Some Viking houses in the northeast were covered with turf instead of thatch.



The Vikings came from Scandinavia, a region in Northern Europe that includes modern-day Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. This area is characterised by its rugged terrain, with many fjords, mountains, and forests. The climate is cold, with long winters and short summers, which made farming difficult.



Viking raiders often targeted coastal monasteries and villages, which were rich in resources but poorly defended. These raids resulted in the destruction of property, the looting of treasures, and the capture of slaves.



The Vikings were active traders during the Viking Age (roughly 8th to 11th centuries) and engaged in extensive trade across Europe, Asia, and even parts of North America. They traded a variety of goods, including luxury items like furs, walrus ivory, and amber, which were highly valued in European and Middle Eastern markets.