



Philosophers Summer Term 2 – The Vicious Vikings!

Overview, Vocabulary and Sticky Knowledge



What do I already know?

In Explorers, I learned that...

- The first and most famous castle in England was the Tower of London.
- William the conqueror decided that Nottingham Castle should be built in 1068 and was a wooden motte-and bailey castle. Today, it looks very different to how it started all those years ago! It is now used as an art gallery.

In Philosophers, I learned that...

- For a long time, England was not one country, Anglo-Saxon kings ruled lots of small kingdoms across the land.
- The Anglo-Saxon period ended when the Normans conquered Britain in 1066.
- When crimes were committed, the village gathered together in a tithing. Elders or rich noblemen would decide if a person was innocent or not. If a person needed to be caught, they would carry out a hue and cry to capture them.

What am I going to learn about this half term?

- Who the Vikings were.
- Why they raided and settled in Britain.
- The conflict between Saxons and Vikings.
- What the Vikings believed.
- How historical sources portrayed Vikings in an inaccurate way.

Key Vocabulary:

Challenging vocabulary.

Medieval,
heathen,
descendants

Words to learn.

Longship, saga, Danelaw,
Wessex, Berserker, God-fearing,
pillaging, Odin, Valhalla, pagan,
Loki, expedition, Northmen,
plunder, barbarian, Baltic, Viking,
Lindisfarne

Words I should know.

Iceland, England, Scandinavia, Norway, Denmark,
Sweden, empire, Nordic, brutality, helmet, myth,
navigation, invader, settler, raid, compass, dragon,
voyage, warfare, foreign, Monastery, century



Topic Traveller Question:

How did the Vikings change Britain?

Answer this question in a creative way and bring into school at the end of this half term.

Sticky Knowledge:

- Not all Vikings were warriors. Many came in peace and become farmers.
- The lands that the Vikings occupied were known as Danelaw.
- No Vikings wore horns in their helmets.
- Vikings spoke Norse, which had an alphabet made up of runes.
- Longships were designed to sail in both deep and shallow water so that they could get close to the shore and sail in rivers to get inland.
- Vikings were pagans and often raided monasteries, looting gold.
- The most important Viking British city was York, or Jorvik as it was known by the Vikings.
- Part of England was given to the Vikings by King Alfred in an attempt to stop the raids on Saxon Villages. This became known as Danelaw.
- The names for most of the days of the week originate from Vikings: **Monday** – linked to the moon by the name Mani – Norse for Moon. **Tuesday** named after the Viking God of War – Tyr. **Wednesday** – named after Odin and known as Woden's Day. **Thursday** – named after Thor, the God of thunder.



Map of England showing Danelaw.



Map showing Viking conquests.



An excavated Viking Long Ship in Norway.