Year 4 – Autumn Term History – Who were the Vikings?

Vocabulary and Glossary

Christianity	A religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ
Conquer	Overcome and take control of a place or group of people
Danegeld	A tax collected from the Anglo-Saxon people paid to the Viking invaders in exchange for peace
Invasion	When a foreign army enters a country by force
Monastery	A building where monks live, work, study and pray, separate from the outside world
Monk	A member of a male religious community who lives in a monastery
Pagan	A person who believes in many gods or does not follow one of the world's major religions
Raid	A sudden attack, which aims to cause damage and allow the raiders to steal items such as precious materials
Scandinavia	An area of Europe which includes Sweden, Norway and Denmark
Longhouse	A large hall like building where many Viking families would live together
Reeve	A local official in Anglo-Saxon England

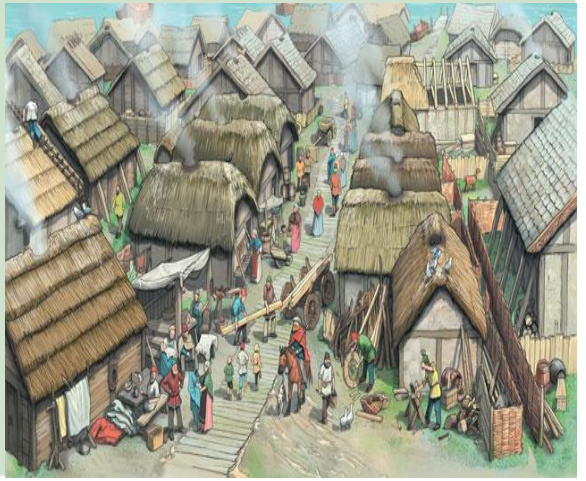
When and where did the first Viking raids take place?

- The Vikings came from Scandinavia and travelled across the seas in longboats.
- In AD 793, the Vikings raided Lindisfarne monastery, stealing treasures and attacking the monks.



How did the Anglo Saxons resist the Vikings?

- Anglo-Saxon kings paid the Vikings money called Danegeld to leave, but they kept returning.
- In AD 865, a large Viking army invaded England and later conquered all the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms except Wessex.



Who were the Vikings?

What was everyday life like for the Vikings?

- Most Vikings were farmers or craftspeople and lived in longhouses. Some were also warriors who carried out raids.
- The Vikings worshipped many gods, including Odin, Thor and Loki, before gradually becoming Christians.



How do we know about the Vikings?

- The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle recorded history in Old English and tells us about Viking raids.
- Archaeologists found buildings and objects at Jorvik (York) that help us understand Viking life.



What was Danelaw and how did England become a unified country?



- Alfred the Great, King of Wessex, defeated the Vikings at Edington in AD 878 and made peace with their leader, Guthrum.
- Alfred's grandson, Athelstan, became the first King of all England in AD 927.

What happened as a result of the Norman invasion?

- In 1066, following the death of Edward the Confessor, Harold Godwinson became King of England and defeated the Viking king at Stamford Bridge.
- William of Normandy defeated Harold at the Battle of Hastings and became King of England, ending Anglo-Saxon rule.

