

787 AD – 1066 AD

Timeline

787 AD	793 AD	866 AD	876 AD	878 AD	886 AD	991 AD	1066
First Viking raid recording in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle	Vikings landed on Lindisfarne	Danes capture York (Jorvik)	Vikings from Denmark, Sweden and Norway settle permanently in England	Battle of Edington	King Alfred defeats the Vikings / Allows them to settle in East England	King Ethelred started paying the Vikings to leave (Danegeld)	Battle of Hastings / William I King of England

Key Vocabulary

Barbarian	People classed as uncultured or brutish.
Berserker	A warrior who would enter a frenzy before battle.
Danegeld	A payment in silver, given to the Vikings to get them to leave Britain.
Danelaw	An area of land ruled by the Vikings where they settled from York down to the east of England.
Long boat	Long, narrow ships that could travel fast, in shallow waters for incredibly long distances.
Norseman/ Norse	Another term for a Viking or person from Scandinavia.
Shield	Wooden, circular and painted (often red and white). Often their only defence as armour was expensive.
Raid	A surprise attack to steal goods and sometimes capture people.
Valhalla	Brave warriors were believed to go to Valhalla in the afterlife – a great hall, feasting alongside Odin.

Key Questions

- Why did the Vikings come to Britain?
- How did the Vikings change from 'raiders' to 'invaders'?
- Can you describe 3 key aspects of Viking life?
- How did the Anglo-Saxon's resist Viking invasion?
- What is Danegeld?
- What is the Bayeux Tapestry?
- What happened after Edward the Confessors death in 1066?

Famous Figures

Edward the Elder

Ruler of Wessex from 899 – 924. Together with Aethelred (leader of Mercia) he took back much of England from Viking rule.

King Ethelred

King of Wessex. He introduced Danegeld as a way to try and persuade the Vikings to leave Britain.

King Canute

Canute was the first Viking king of England, ruling from 1016-1035. He won a battle against Edmund II that divided their kingdoms, but when Edmund died Canute ruled both kingdoms. His sons, Harold Harefoot and then Hardicanute, ruled until 1042.