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| **Year 6****The Vikings** **British History** |
| **Links made with other subjects** | EnglishGeographyArt |
| **The BIG Question** | Why should we remember the Vikings? |
| **The BIG Outcome** | Children to demonstrate the knowledge they have learnt during this unit by creating a double page poster discussing key events / customs in Viking life as indicated in bold.  |
| **History objectives**(link to NC)  | * The Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor.
* To develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British history.
* Note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms.
* Understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.
* Construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information.
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| **Prior knowledge**What prior knowledge is needed for children to be successful in this unit?  | *Children already know:** Year 3 – Stone Age to Iron Age (British History)
* Year 4 – The Romans (British History)
* Year 5 – Anglo Saxons (British History)
* Year 4 – Geography – Settlements
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| **Future learning**Consider the conceptual knowledge within a subject that pupils need for future learning not just the recall of facts but the importance of concepts | This unit gives prior knowledge to:* Year 6 – Battle of Stamford Bridge (Local History)
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| **Historical strands** | Historical enquiry/ skills* Ask and answer question about the topic
* Form opinions/descriptions of a time period
* Us a range of sources to find out about the past
* Identify and be aware of bias in sources
* Use artefacts, stories, online sources, photographs, written accounts
* Question the reliability of sources
* Primary and secondary sources

Continuity, change, cause and effect* Analyse and evaluate change past to present
* Express an opinion on the change
* Devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference and significance

Governance/ Rulership* Kings

Chronology Sequence important dates on a time line and identify patterns or change |
| **Vocabulary/ Glossary** | Viking, raiding, Danelaw, Danegeld, kingdom, Gods, longships,  |
| **Knowledge** (see italics for knowledge to remember) | The knowledge that children will learn and remember:1. **Introduction:** Use a timeline to understand where the Vikings fit in to Anglo-Saxon Britain and start to make comparisons between them (See Y5 Planning – Anglo-Saxons).
2. **Coming to Britain:** The Viking age in European history was from about AD700 to 1100. During this period many Vikings left their homelands in Scandinavia and travelled by longboat to other countries, like Britain and Ireland. The Vikings first attacked Britain in 787 AD, but didn’t start to invade and settle in the British Isles until 793.
3. When the people of Britain first saw the Viking longboats they came down to the shore to welcome them. However, the Vikings fought the local people, stealing from churches and burning buildings to the ground.
4. The first Viking raid recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle was around AD787. It was the start of a fierce struggle between the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings. The Vikings were pagans, not Christians like most people living in Britain at the time. They did not think twice about raiding a monastery.  Christian monasteries in Britain were easy targets for the Vikings. The monks had no weapons and the buildings were filled with valuable treasures, like gold, jewels and books. There was food, drink, cattle, clothes and tools too – all very tempting to a Viking raider.
5. The name 'Viking' comes from a language called 'Old Norse' and means ‘a pirate raid’. People who went off raiding in ships were said to be 'going Viking'. But not all the Vikings were bloodthirsty warriors. Some came to fight, but others came peacefully, to settle. They were farmers, and kept animals and grew crops. They were skilful at crafting, and made beautiful metalwork and wooden carvings.
6. **New land:** The Vikings wanted new land because the places where they came from in Scandinavia – Norway, Sweden and Denmark – weren’t very easy to live in. It was hard to grow crops, which meant there wasn’t a lot of food as the population got bigger. Britain and Europe had plenty of good farmland, so the Vikings tried to claim some of that land for themselves. Even though the [Anglo-Saxons](https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/anglo-saxons) were pretty well established in England, the Vikings would turn up every now and then to raid towns and take a bit of land. Sometimes, instead of fighting the Vikings, the Anglo-Saxons decided it was better to pay them money so they’d stay away. This payment was called Danegeld.
7. **Longships:** Boats that the Vikings built were called longships – they are long, narrow boats that can be used in both deep and shallow water, making them perfect for travelling over the ocean and carrying lots of warriors onto the shore. Longships were symmetrical, meaning they looked the same at the front as they did at the back. They’d often have dragon heads carved at either end.
8. **Kingdoms:** In 878, King [Alfred the Great](https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/alfred-the-great)defeated the Vikings at the Battle of Ethandun (in modern day Wiltshire). After this, he and the Vikings agreed to set boundaries for their kingdoms. The area that the Vikings lived in was called Danelaw, and it meant that the land south of the diagonal line between London and Chester belonged to King Alfred (Wessex). Danelaw eventually became smaller and smaller as the Anglo-Saxons took more and more control.
9. **Religion:** Viking warriors believed that when they died in battle, they went to Valhalla – this is where the king of the gods lived, named Odin. The Vikings believed in many different gods, and they thought making sacrifices to the gods kept them all happy. They also told stories about the gods, called Norse mythology. Some of the gods included: Thor, the god of thunder; Idun, the goddess of spring and Odin, the king of gods and the god of war. Viking warriors were very good fighters. They’d wear helmets and carry shields to defend themselves, and they’d also have spears, swords and battle axes
10. **The end:** In 954, the Anglo-Saxons drove out Eric Bloodaxe, the last Viking king of Jorvik (York). Later, when Eric was killed in battle, the Vikings agreed to be ruled by England's king.
11. (See Y6 Planning – Battle of Stamford Bridge) When Edward died in 1066, the English Witan chose Harold (son of Godwin, the Earl of Wessex) as the next king. Duke William of Normandy and Harald Hardrada, the King of Norway, were not happy with the decision. They believed they had a claim to the throne. In 1066, England was invaded twice. First, a Norwegian army led by Harald Hardrada landed in the north. Harold killed Hardrada in a battle at Stamford Bridge in Yorkshire.
12. Three days later William's Norman army landed in Sussex. Harold hurried south and the two armies fought at the Battle of Hastings (14 October 1066). The Normans won, Harold was killed, and William became king. This brought an end to Anglo-Saxon and Viking rule. A new age of Norman rule in England had started.
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| **SEND expectations** | 1. **Introduction:** Use a timeline to understand where the Vikings fit in to Anglo-Saxon Britain and start to make comparisons between them.
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3. When the people of Britain first saw the Viking longboats they came down to the shore to welcome them. However, the Vikings fought the local people, stealing from churches and burning buildings to the ground.
4. **New land:** The Vikings wanted new land because the places where they came from in Scandinavia – Norway, Sweden and Denmark – weren’t very easy to live in.
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6. The area that the Vikings lived in was called Danelaw.
7. **Religion:** Viking warriors believed that when they died in battle, they went to Valhalla – this is where the king of the gods lived, named Odin.
8. **The end:** The Battle of Stamford Bridges/ Battle of Hastings brought an end to Anglo-Saxon and Viking rule. A new age of Norman rule in England had started.
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