



# Year 4: Raiders



1 Terms	Definitions
<b>Medieval, middle ages, dark ages</b>	The period in European history that came between ancient and modern times. It lasted from about 500 to about 1500 AD. The first half of this time is often called <b>the dark ages</b> , because there aren't many sources of evidence from that time to tell us what life was like.
<b>plunderer</b>	To rob or steal especially openly and by force (like during a war).
<b>Power struggle</b>	A fight for control (between Vikings and Anglo-Saxons).
<b>Danegeld</b>	A tax paid to Viking raiders by the Anglo-Saxons to stop them from attacking the coast and invading them..
<b>Danelaw</b>	An area of northern and eastern England, where the Danes (Vikings) were in power ( <b>created in the treaties between Alfred the Great, and Guthrum, the Danish warlord, written following Guthrum's defeat at the Battle of Edington in 878 AD.</b>
<b>Population density</b>	How crowded a place is – how many people live in a certain area.
<b>Agriculture/land use</b>	<b>Land use</b> means what the land is used for – for example farming ( <b>agriculture</b> ) or to build houses on.

## 2. Viking Invasion

- Vikings lived in Britain between around 700AD to 1100. The invasions started in 793 AD with the Lindisfarne Raid, but small numbers of Vikings were living in Britain before then.
- Vikings **emigrated** (left) their homeland in **Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden and Denmark)** and travelled by **long boat** to Britain and Ireland.



### Lindisfarne

- During raids, Vikings fought the local people, stole from **monasteries** (where religious people called Monks lived) and burnt buildings.
- Lindisfarne (also known as Holy Island) was one of the first landing sites for the Vikings. They invaded in 793 AD.
- There were many monasteries on the island, which had lots of money and treasure, but they were not well protected.



## 6. Sources

Historians know about Vikings in Britain because of sources like the **Anglo Saxon Chronicle, runes** (special writing carved in rock) and archaeological finds.



Historians argue that views of Vikings as violent raiders may not be true.

## 7. Legacy

- The Vikings gave us many things:
- Trade** (buying and selling goods)
  - Money
  - Language (place names)
  - Shipbuilding

## 5. Life in a Viking Settlement

- Viking homes had thick walls made from wood, and mud and the roofs were layered with thick turfs of grass or thatched with branches and reeds.
- The common name for Viking homes was **longhouses** as they were rectangular in shape. Most homes would be quite small as only the wealthy could afford big homes.
- In the winter Viking families shared their homes with their animals!
- Vikings farmed and kept cattle (like the Saxons) but they were sea people and looked to live near water.



## 3. Where did the Vikings Settle?

Some Vikings **settled** (started living) in the Shetland and Orkney Islands, Scotland.

The Vikings founded the city of Dublin, Ireland.

Viking towns were normally by the sea and a river.



**Danelaw**, which is in the north and east of England

The most important city in Danelaw was York. Over 10,000 people lived there and it was an important place to trade goods.

