

Bishop Henderson Primary School

Enquiry : Alfred and The Danes

Class: Kestrel

Year groups: 6

When: Spring 1

What should I already know?

- That the Romans left Britain
- The King Arthur was a semi historical figure
- That the Anglo Saxons invaded Britain
- That there were different Saxons Kingdoms including Wessex, Mercia, Northumbria and East Anglia
- The Saxons become Christian
- Britain was also invaded by the Irish from the West and Picts from the North

What Will I know by the end of this enquiry

- That the Danes and the Norse are known as Vikings but Vikings is an adjective
- That the Danes and Norse came from modern Sweden, Denmark and Norway
- That England had still not be created but the Saxon kingdoms of Wessex, Mercia, Northumbria and East Anglia still existed
- That the Danes/Norse initially raided monasteries and churches to take gold and slaves
- That the Danes/Norse were pagan
- That the Danes/Norse occupied most of Britain apart from Somerset, Devon and Cornwall
- That King Alfred of Wessex hid in the Somerset levels until he had an army and then pushed the Danes/Norse out of Wessex and Mercia
- That after Alfred's victories, Britain was split in half with line between the mouth of the Thames and Mersey. In the south was Saxon Mercia and Wessex in the North was Danish Land known as Dane Law
- Alfred's grandson, Athelstan, would eventually conquer all of the Danish/Norse lands in mainland Britain and England would be form
- I will be able to compare the life of an Anglo Saxon child to a Danish child

Important Facts

1. The Danes were famous for sailing huge distances from their home in Scandinavia between AD 800 and 1066 to raid and plunder, but they also traded with people from other countries.
2. The name 'Viking' means 'a pirate raid' in the Old Norse language.
3. Among the many gods Danes believed in were Thor, the god of thunder, and Loki, a cheeky mischief-maker who could shape-shift to become all different kinds of animals.
4. The Danes were eco-pioneers – sort of! The 'long houses' where families lived would have turf roofs to help keep in the heat.
5. When important Danes died, they would be placed with all their clothes, jewellery, even their animals, in a burial ship. This would either be covered with a huge mound of earth or set alight and pushed out to sea.
6. King Alfred translated many books from Latin into Anglo-Saxon to allow more people to read and be educated.

Vocabulary

Word	Meaning
Interpretations	the process by which we describe, analyse, evaluate, and create an explanation of past events. We base our interpretation on primary and secondary historical sources.
Analyse	the ability to demonstrate an understanding of the elements that contributed to the creation of a historical source
Impact on life	How did these moments impact the life we live today
Dane	group from the land of the Northern European country, Denmark.
Danelaw	is an 11th-century name for an area of Northern and Eastern England that was under the control of the Danish empire
Norse	refers to settlers, traders, farmers, and seafarers who originally hailed from Northern Europe
Norman	The Normans were Vikings who settled on the part of the French coast called Normandie
Pagan	a follower of a polytheistic religion
Compare	the comparison of different societies which existed during the same time period or shared similar cultural conditions.
Developments	primarily refers to changes in the unfolding of history

Timeline

