

# LO: Who Were The Vikings?

- Success Criteria:
- Know where they came from
- Know when the Viking period occurred in British history
- Begin to understand why they came and their impact on Britain



What does the word 'INVASION'  
mean?

Discuss with a friend on your table and  
come up with a definition (meaning)

What historical invasions do you  
know about?











# What does the word 'INVASION' mean?

Discuss with a friend on your table and  
come up with a definition (meaning)

INVASION = entering a country by  
force with the intention of  
conquering it

What historical invasions do you  
know about?

# British history timeline – can you place the periods of history in the correct order?

<p>Roman Britain</p> 	<p>Victorian Britain</p> 	<p>Tudor Britain</p> 	<p>Viking Britain</p> 	<p>Georgian Britain</p> 
<p>Modern Britain Including World War 2</p> 	<p>Anglo-Saxon Britain</p> 	<p>Pre-historic Britain</p> 	<p>Medieval Britain Normans</p> 	<p>Stuart Britain</p> 
<p><b>BC</b></p>	<p><b>1714</b></p>	<p><b>793</b></p>	<p><b>1837</b></p>	<p><b>1485</b></p>
<p><b>450</b></p>	<p><b>1066</b></p>	<p><b>1603</b></p>	<p><b>1902+</b></p>	<p><b>43AD</b></p>

# How did you do?

- **Pre-historic Britain BC**
- **Roman Britain 43 AD**
- **Anglo-Saxon Britain 450**
- **Viking Britain 793**
- **Medieval Britain 1066**
- **Tudor Britain 1485**
- **Stuart Britain 1603**
- **Georgian Britain 1714**
- **Victorian Britain 1837**
- **Modern Britain (including World War II) 1902+**

# When did they come to Britain?



Celts



Romans



Anglo-Saxons



Vikings

Raiders then Settlers

2,000  
years ago

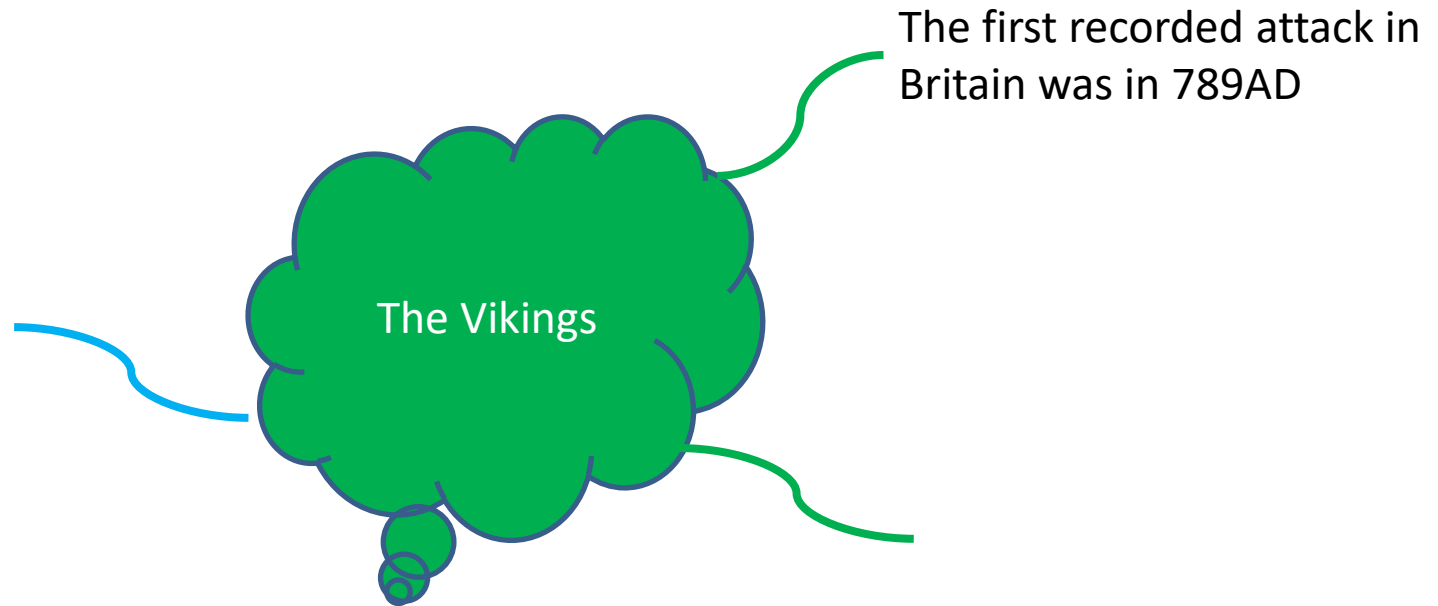
AD 43

AD450


AD800


AD1000

# What do you already know about the Vikings? Draw a mind map listing the facts you already know



## KEY:

 What I know about the Vikings

 What my class knows about the Vikings

What I know about the Vikings:

Write down 3 questions you would like to find more information about

What else do you want to find out?





# Who were they?

Watch the following introduction:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zgj2hyc>

Which gives an overview of the Viking period and first raids.

# Where were they from?

The Vikings came from the three countries which make up Scandinavia:

1. Denmark
2. Norway
3. Sweden





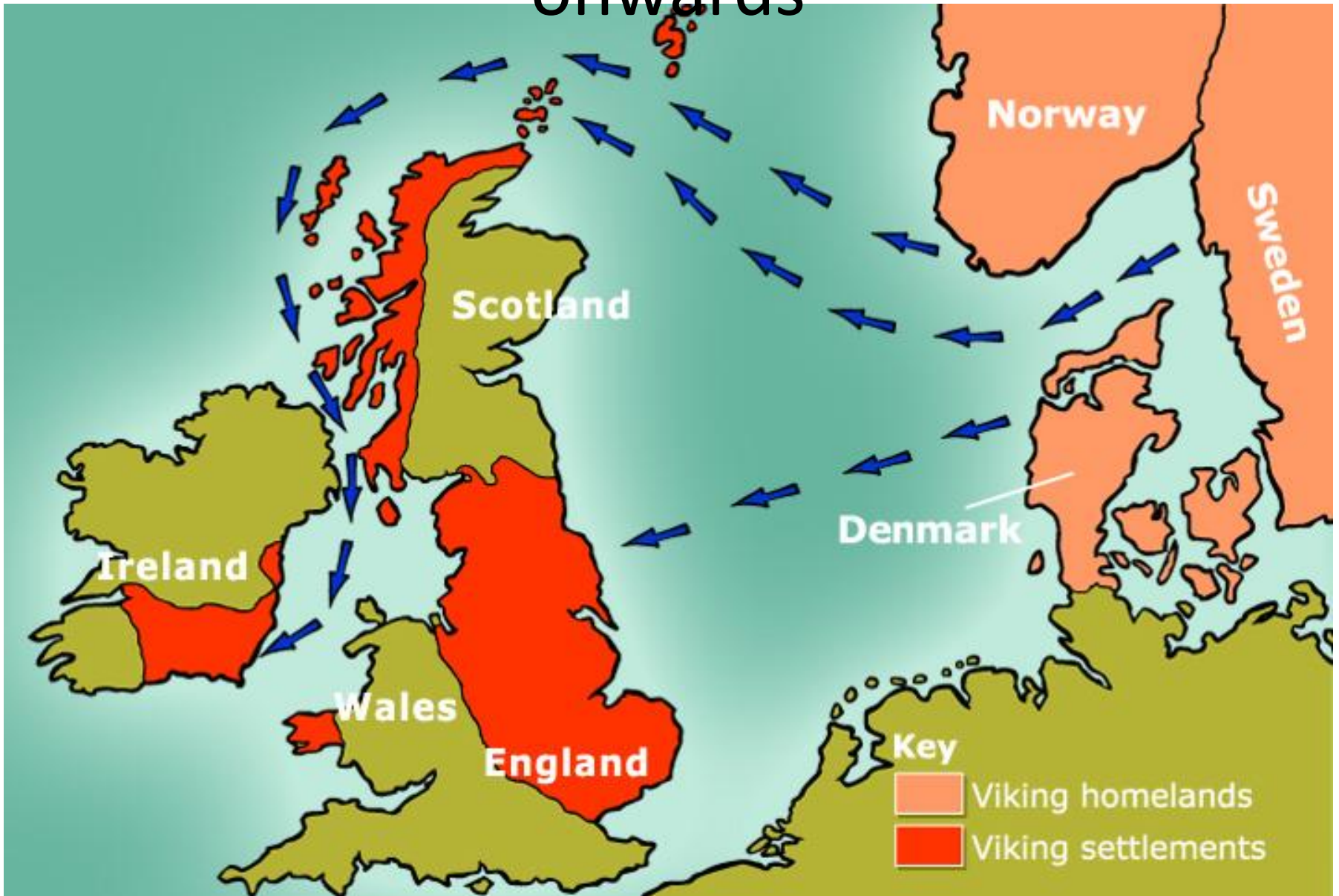
# Who were they?

- AD 789 to 1066 – that's over 1000 years ago!
- Many Vikings left Scandinavia and travelled to other countries, such as Britain and Ireland.
- Some went to fight and steal treasure. Later, others settled in new lands as farmers, craftsmen or traders.
- Vikings were brave sailors and explorers
- Vikings were 'Norsemen' (men from the North)

# What did they do?

- Traders
- Boat-builders, blacksmiths, potters and leather-workers
- Most Viking men knew how to handle a boat and most could fight.
- Viking women looked after the children, made the family's clothes and cooked the two meals a day most families ate. On the farm, women milked the cows and made cheese.
- Viking children didn't go to school but helped their parents at work and were adults by the age of 16

# Viking Settlements – mid 850s onwards





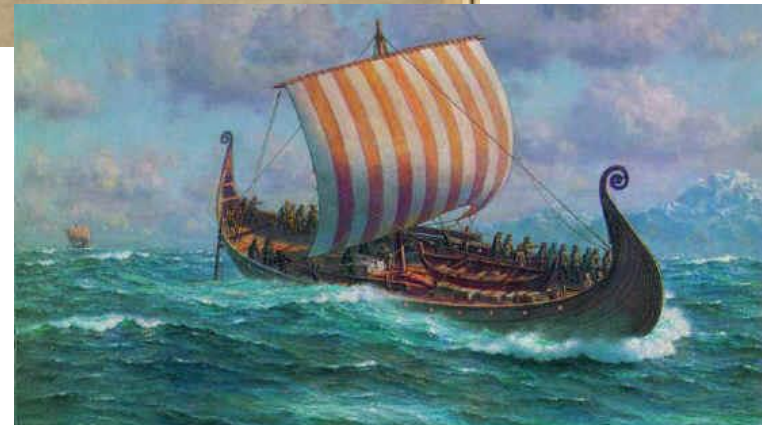
## Viking ships

'Longships' – very fast

Sometimes called dragon ships

Found their way by watching the sun and stars

Figure head – Spirit of the boat



# Viking Beliefs

- Pagan religion
- Vikings had many gods
- **Odin** - the leader of the gods - god of knowledge and war
- **Thor** is the god of thunder and protection against the Giants
- **Frey** was the god of agriculture and fertility
- **Freya** - goddess of love and beauty





# What do these words mean?

- Vikings
- Norsemen
- Explore
- Invade
- Raid
- Settlement
- Longship
- Longhouse
- Pagan
- Monastery

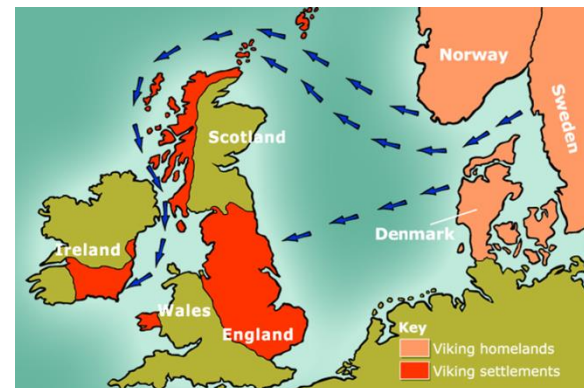


# Task 1 - write a short summary of where they came from e.g:

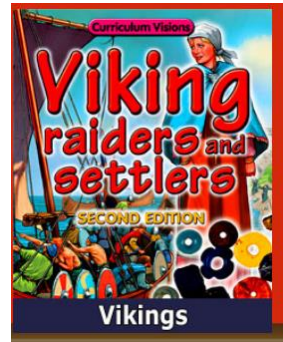
## Where did the Vikings come from?

The Vikings came from three countries of Scandinavia: Denmark, Norway and Sweden. 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'.

The Viking age in European history was about AD 789 to 1100. During this period many Vikings left Scandinavia and travelled to other countries, such as Britain and Ireland. Some went to fight and steal treasure. Later, others settled in new lands as farmers, craftsmen or [traders](#).



## Task 2 - The Attack on Lindisfarne 793AD



Visit Curriculum Visions and go to the History tab / Vikings / and click on the book 'Vikings: Raiders and Settlers.'

<https://www.curriculumvisions.com/IMT/history/historyVikings/historyVikings.html>

Username and Password:

rockwell.green/0001 and then password: jungle

Read pg 30 and watch the video linked to it. This will help with your knowledge of the raids and our English writing.

## The Vikings raid Britain

For centuries the Vikings had traded across Europe, but then they began to turn to piracy. The British Isles were easy targets.

▼ ① A Viking raid on the English coast. People were often captured rather than killed and became slaves.



Viking lands were poor and times could be very harsh. Often people were close to starvation.

Each **CLAN** fought battles with its neighbours for land, goods and captives – who were made into slaves.

As a result, Vikings became used to fighting. They began to think that the best way to get wealthier was to take what they wanted from others by violence.

These changes turned the Vikings into **PIRATES**. Raiding and piracy were very common at this time, but the Vikings were especially feared because of their swift boats and the violence of their attacks – and above all because they were successful.

### The sea journey

The Vikings did not have compasses or maps to help them get to the British Isles. As a result, the chances of sailing off course were

high. Some Viking ships never reached land and the sailors starved, lost in the open ocean. To give themselves a better chance of survival, they stored dried, salted or smoked fish on board, together with meat and water.

The small boats could also easily be damaged by great storms. Even after winning booty, many Vikings did not get back alive to Scandinavia, but drowned at sea.

## What the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle says about Vikings

The *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* is a kind of diary of events written by the English (who at this time were called the Anglo-Saxons).

This is what the *Chronicle* has to say about the first ever raid on the British Isles. It clearly caught the Anglo-Saxons completely by surprise.

*AD 793 This year there were dreadful warnings over Northumbria, terrifying the people: these were immense sheets of light rushing through the air, and whirlwinds, and fiery dragons flying across the sky. These tremendous tokens were soon followed by a great famine; and not long after, in January, the heathen men [Vikings] made havoc in the church of God in Holy-Island, by plunder and slaughter.*

Sometimes the English were able to put up a fight, as happened in 794.

*AD 794 The heathen [Viking] armies spread devastation among the Northumbrians and plundered the monastery at the mouth of the Wear. There, however, some of their leaders were slain; and some of their ships also were shattered to pieces by the violence of the weather; many of the crew were drowned; and some, who escaped alive to the shore, were soon dispatched [killed] at the mouth of the river.*

### The raids

Raids may have been made by a single ship or a group of ships (picture ①). Between 30 and 150 men might charge ashore to get what booty and captives they could find.

They didn't raid all of the time, and months might go by before another raid came. It was this uncertainty that made people in the British Isles afraid of the Vikings.