

The Vikings – Year 4 – Summer 2

The word viking in the Old Norse language in fact refers to a man or woman who left his or her homeland for adventure and profit abroad and returned home with their newly won fortune and fame. The word existed in both a noun form, vikingr (the person travelling for adventure), and a verb form, viking (to travel or participate in one of these adventures). The traditional season for a vikingr 'to go on a viking' was between May and September each year, with vikingrs returning home for winter.

Why did Vikings want to invade Britain?

The Vikings come from Northern Europe where the winter temperatures plummet.

The Vikings were predominantly farmers, they wanted land to grow crops. The attraction to settle in Britain was that they could grow crops to a longer period of time compared with that of Scandinavia.

In 793AD the Holy Island of Lindisfarne was attacked by Vikings. This marked the beginning of the Viking era.

There were many famous Anglo-Saxon kings, but the most famous of all was **Alfred**, one of the only kings in British history to be called 'Great'.

His father was king of Wessex, but by the end of Alfred's reign his coins referred to him as '**King of the English**'.

He fought the Vikings and then made peace so that English and Vikings settled down to live together. He encouraged people to learn and he tried to govern well and fairly.

Vocabulary

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| 1 | Viking | The term means 'Raider.' Given by the Victorians about the people who raided during the period |
| 2 | Norse | The language spoken by the Vikings |
| 3 | Scandinavia | The group of countries consisting of Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland. |
| 4 | Long ship | A long, narrow, wooden boat used by the Vikings |
| 5 | Pillage | To steal good using violent tactics |
| 6 | Raid | Suddenly attack a place |

