



Knowledge Organiser- Year 5 - Spring 1/The Anglo-Saxon and Viking struggle for the United Kingdom –

Were the Vikings really vicious thieves?

Key Concepts and Facts

1	England was an attractive target for the Vikings	Some Vikings came to England to fight and raid. They made regular raids around the coasts of England, looting treasure and other goods, and capturing people as slaves. Monasteries were often targeted, for their precious silver or gold chalices, plates, bowls and crucifixes. Not all Vikings were raiders, some 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. In 866 the Vikings captured modern York (Viking name: Jorvik) and made it their capital.
2	The Vikings struggled to take complete power from the Anglo-Saxons for some time.	Over time the Vikings took control of several Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. Eventually the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings made a peace agreement, but the fighting continued for many years. The Vikings and Anglo-Saxons divided up Britain with the Anglo-Saxons living mainly in the west and the Vikings in an area to the east, known as the Danelaw.
3	King Alfred successfully defended his kingdom against the Vikings.	King Alfred, called 'the Great' because he: <ul style="list-style-type: none">defeated the Vikings in the Battle of Edington in 878, then converted their leader Guthrum to Christianity;recaptured London from the Vikings and created a boundary between the Saxons and the Vikingsstrengthened his kingdom's defences by creating a series of fortresses (burhs) and a decent army;built ships against Viking sea attacks, so beginning the English navy;had books translated into English and promoted learning;ordered for the writing of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, a historical record of the Anglo-Saxons in Britain.



Key Vocabulary

1	Christianity	The religion based on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ, or its beliefs and practices.
2	Pagans	A religion where many gods and goddesses are worshipped.
3	Immigrant	A person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country.
4	Migration	Movement of people to a new area or country in order to find work or better living conditions
5	Raid	A surprise attack.
6	Kingdom	An area ruled by a king.
7	Conquest	The act or process of getting or gaining especially by force.

Key People

1	Alfred the Great	Alfred the Great (849-899) was the most famous of the Anglo-Saxon kings. Despite overwhelming odds he successfully defended his kingdom, Wessex, against the Vikings.
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Viking time-line

