

Vikings and Anglo-Saxons

Key Vocabulary

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| Danegeld | "Paying the Dane". King Etherlred paid the Vikings 4500kg of silver to go home but they kept returning and were paid 22,000kg of silver in Danegeld altogether. |
| exile | To be sent away. |
| invade | To enter and occupy land. |
| kingdom | An area ruled by a king. |
| longship | A long, wooden, narrow boat used by the Vikings. |
| outlawed | Having all property taken away and no longer being able to live in the community. |
| pagans | A religion where many gods and goddesses are worshipped. |
| pillaged | To violently steal something. |
| raid | A surprise attack. |
| wergild | A payment system used to settle disputes between a criminal and the victim or their family. |

AD 1066 – Harold II tried to stop Harald of Norway from invading England and killed him in the Battle of Stamford Bridge.

William, the Duke of Normandy, thought he should be king so came to fight Harold in the Battle of Hastings (AD 1066). Harold was shot through the eye with an arrow and died in the battle. William of Normandy, who became known as William the Conqueror, became King, bringing the Viking and Anglo-Saxon age to an end in AD 1066.



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| The Early Vikings | The Vikings came from the modern Scandinavian countries of Denmark, Norway and Sweden. They travelled in boats called longships and first arrived in Britain around AD 787. The Vikings raided places such as monasteries and pillaged expensive items to trade. They were looking for valuable goods like gold and jewels, imported foods and other useful materials. | Anglo-Saxon Laws and Punishment | The Anglo-Saxon laws were very similar to some we have today, although the punishments were very different. These were often very brutal and would be carried in public to act as deterrents, to discourage others from committing such crimes. Stoning, whipping and exile were common punishments; as well as paying a fine (wergild), or receiving reparations in the form of hot or cold water ordeals. |
| Anglo-Saxon Kings | The kings of Anglo-Saxon Britain each ruled their own kingdom and the people in it. They fought to defend their kingdom or take control of other kingdoms. When the Anglo-Saxons first settled in Britain, there were seven kingdoms, but by AD 878 there was just one kingdom left (Wessex) as the others had been overrun by the Vikings. Many Anglo-Saxon kings tried to resist the Vikings and fought hard to keep control of their land. King Alfred the Great was the best known Anglo-Saxon king and the first to defeat the Vikings in battle. | Viking Laws and Punishment | Viking laws were not written down but passed on by word of mouth. Punishments could include fines, being semi-outlawed, fighting to the death, or revenge on someone who has killed a family member. |

