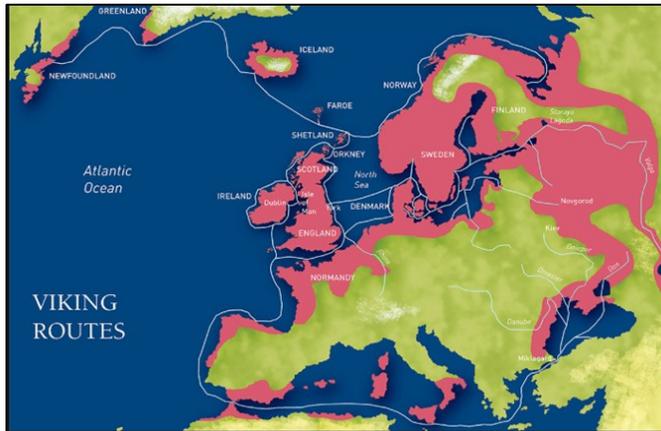


Knowledge Organiser

Map of Viking Routes



The Big Picture

The Vikings came from the Scandinavian countries of Norway, Sweden and Denmark. The time between 787AD and 1050AD is known as the time of the Vikings. Initially, they settled in northern Scotland and eastern England, also establishing the city of Dublin in Ireland. Around 1000AD, some Vikings settled in North America, but did not stay long. They also travelled to southern Spain and Russia, and traded as far as Turkey. 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'. But not all the Vikings were bloodthirsty warriors. Some came to fight, but others 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.

Vikings Timeline (AD)

787-789 AD – The Vikings begin their attacks on Britain.

840 AD – Viking settlers establish the city of Dublin in Ireland.

866 AD – Danish Vikings establish a kingdom in York, England.

878-886 AD – King Alfred divides England under the Danelaw Act, granting Vikings north & east England.

900-911 AD – The Vikings raid the Mediterranean, and found Normandy in France.

1066 AD – The Vikings, led by Harold Hardrada, are defeated at Stamford Bridge.

1013 AD – The Danes conquer England. From 1028, Knut rules.

1000 AD – Leif Erikson explores the coast of North America

981 AD – Eric the Red discovers Greenland.

Key Figures



Ragnar Lothbrok

Ragnar Lothbrok is a legendary Danish and Swedish Viking leader, who is largely known from Viking Age Old Norse poetry and literature (there is debate as to whether he actually existed under this name).



Eric Bloodaxe

Eric Haraldsson, nicknamed Eric Bloodaxe, was a 10th Century Norwegian ruler. He is thought to have had short reigns as both the King of Norway and twice as the King of Northumberland (c.947-948 and 952-954).



Ivar the Boneless

Ivar the Boneless was a notoriously ferocious Viking leader and commander who invaded what is now England. He was a son of the legendary Viking Ragnar Lothbrok.

Important Dates and Vocabulary

Scandinavia		The Vikings descended from all over Scandinavia (now Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Denmark). The terrain of Scandinavia was not great for farming, so Vikings left their homeland in search of more fertile lands.	Where? Northern Europe	Key Fact: The Vikings were also known by the name 'Norsemen.'
Viking Longships		The Vikings had advanced sailing and navigational skills for the time. They were aided by their longboats, which were long, narrow wooden vessels. These could be sailed in both deep and shallow water.	When? The longship first appeared in the 9 th Century	Key Fact: The methods used in building longships are still used today!
Norse Runes		The Vikings spoke in a language called Norse, and had their own alphabet system (futhark) made up of symbols called Runes. The original futhark had 24 letters, although this was later expanded. Runes were regarded as sacred.	How? Vikings would scribe on wood, bone and stone.	Key Fact: The word 'futhark' comes from the first 6 letters of the Viking alphabet.
Danelaw		King Alfred the Great defeated the Vikings in 878 AD, and had them sign a treaty, which governed that the Vikings stick to their own land in north and east England – this section of land became known as the Danelaw.	Where? North and East England	Key Fact: The Vikings did not give up on ruling all of England, and eventually did!
Jorvik		The Vikings invaded York and renamed it Jorvik. Here, a settlement was formed, which reigned prosperously for over 100 years, until Eric Bloodaxe was expelled in 954 AD.	Where? York, UK	Key Fact: Many streets in York end in 'gate', the Viking word for 'street.'
Viking Homes		Vikings lived in long rectangular houses made with upright timbers. They used woven sticks, covered with mud, to keep out the rain. They were often one room, with a central fire.	How? Smoke escaped through a hole in the roof.	Key Fact: Animals and people often lived at different ends of the same building.
Weapons		According to custom, Vikings were permitted (and encouraged) to carry a weapon at all times. Weapons included bow and arrows, spears, knives, swords, axes and slings.	How? Bow and arrows were made from yew, ash, or elm.	Key Fact: Grand, well-finished weapons were seen as a sign of wealth and prestige amongst Vikings.
Food		Vikings ate whatever food they could grow, hunt, or make, for example leeks, nuts, berries, bread, porridge, spinach, deer, boar, trout, chicken, eggs, sheep and pigs.	How? Vikings grew grains to make a number of foods.	Key Fact: Vikings also ate honey from bees.
Clothes		The Vikings were skillful weavers, and women and children often made clothes for their families. They could also use natural dyes from plants to give colour. Men wore tunics and trousers, whilst women wore long dresses.	How? Most clothes were made from wool and animal skins	Key Fact: Vikings fastened their clothes with belts and brooches.