

Year 4
History Knowledge Organiser for Vikings

Key Enquiry Questions:	
What was Viking life like in Norway, Denmark and Sweden?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The climate caused poor soil conditions, necessitating seafaring, fishing and hunting as they could not rely on agriculture. The time of the conquests was a time of great social, economic and political change in Scandinavia.
When, where and why did Vikings settle in Britain?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Viking age in Britain began about 1200 years ago in the 9th Century and lasted for 300 years, from AD 793 to AD 1066 when William the Conqueror became king after the Battle of Hastings. They settled primarily in Northern Scotland and Eastern England. In Ireland Vikings founded the city of Dublin.
Why was King Alfred called the great?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The only King in British History to be called Great, Alfred fought the Vikings all his life. Eventually he won an important Battle of Edington in Wiltshire in AD 878 after which many Vikings agreed to live in peace.

Key Vocabulary	
Anglo-Saxon Chronicle	A book written by Anglo-Saxon monks to record the events of each year.
Danegeld	A land tax levied in Anglo-Saxon England during the reign of King Ethelred to raise funds for protection against Danish invaders.
Danelaw	Part of north and east England under the law of the Vikings, where they lived and ruled.
hoard	Treasure buried in the ground, probably for safety in times of trouble.
longship	A long, narrow warship, powered by both oar and sail with many rowers, used by the Vikings. Features of a longship include: figurehead, prow, keel, hull, rudder, oar and clinker-building.
monastery	A religious place where monks live and pray.
monk	A man who devotes himself to religion.
Norse	To do with the Vikings ('Norsemen', from the North).
runes	The name given to the Viking alphabet.
saga	A story or myth told by Vikings to remember the lives of earlier famous Viking people.
Scandinavia	Where the Vikings came from: Norway, Sweden and Denmark.
Viking	Any of the Scandinavian seafaring pirates and traders who raided and settled in many parts of NW Europe in the 8th–11th centuries. Means 'a pirate raid' in the Old Norse language.
Vinland	A Viking name for part of North America (on the tip of modern Newfoundland).

Key Facts:	
793 AD	Vikings attack the monastery of Lindisfarne, Northumbria.
866 AD	Vikings capture York. The Vikings kill rival kings of Northumbria and capture York – The city becomes Jorvik, the Viking capital in England.
867-878 AD	Series of Viking victories.
871 AD	Alfred the Great becomes King of Wessex.
878AD	Vikings settle in England.
886 AD	Alfred, King of Wessex, agrees a treaty with Vikings to divide England, known as the 'Danelaw' - where English and Vikings were equal in law. England is divided – The Saxons retain the west, while the east was to be Viking territory.
899 AD	King Alfred dies.
900 AD	Vikings rule Northern Scotland.
937 AD	Athelstan becomes first King of all England when he defeats the Vikings, Welsh and Scots at the Battle of Brunanburh.
954 AD	Eric Bloodaxe, the last Viking king in England, is forced out of Jorvik (York).
1013 AD	King Sven of Denmark and his son Cnut sail up the river Humber to claim the throne.
1042 AD	Edward the Confessor becomes King of England.
1066 AD	Edward the Confessor dies and is succeeded by Harold Godwinson. Harold, Earl of Wessex, was crowned king of England on 6 January 1066.
25th September 1066 AD	Battle of Stamford Bridge.
14th October 1066 AD	Battle of Hastings.
25th December 1066 AD	William Duke of Normandy crowned King William I of England.
Lindisfarne	Also known as Holy Island, it is situated off the Northumberland coast and was the holiest site of Anglo-Saxon England.
Alfred the Great	King who stopped the Vikings taking control of Britain 886 AD. He beat the Viking army and agreed peace with many.
King Ethelred	West Saxon King who defeated the Viking army in Battle of Ashdown.
Eric Bloodaxe	The last Viking king of Jorvik, he was thrown out of York.
King Canute	Captured the English Crown (1014).

Edward the Confessor	Becomes King in 1042 AD. Known for his piety and religious belief. He lived in Normandy from 1013. Failed to leave an heir to the throne.
Harold Godwinson	Became King of England (1066 AD) after Edward II supposedly signalled for him to be so from his deathbed.
William Duke of Normandy	Laid claim to the English throne and defeated Harold Godwinson at the Battle of Hastings.

Additional Websites:

www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/2tyr9j6

www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/vikings