

History - Were the Vikings raiders, traders or something else?

achievement	A significant accomplishment or contribution that had a lasting impact.
balanced viewpoint	Considering all views in a fair way.
exchange*	Giving something to someone and receiving something in return.
impact	The effect or change something has on a person, place or situation.
impression	An idea, feeling or opinion about something.
Jorvik	The city now called York.
oral tradition	The passing of stories and poems by word of mouth from one generation to another.
saga	A long story of heroic achievement found in Norse literature.
stereotype	A fixed idea about a group of people that is often not true.
trade route*	A long-distance route along which items are transported.
Vikings	A group of Scandinavian people who lived between the 8th and 11th centuries.

*key vocabulary

Traders

Using longboats, the Vikings established trading routes throughout Europe and as far as America, Iraq and Jerusalem. They sold items like timber, wheat, wool, fur and fish; and exchanged them for silver, spices, wine, jewellery, silk and glass.



Raiders

The Viking raids of Britain started in AD 793 when Lindisfarne's monastery was attacked. In general, the Vikings raided in the summer when it was easier to cross the sea. They stole valuable items from monasteries and villages, and they enslaved people before returning home. For the Vikings, raiding demonstrated bravery - a characteristic they valued highly.



Settlers

In Britain, the Vikings started to stay over the winter months. Eventually, they settled down on land they had seized in eastern and northern England. Sometimes, the Anglo-Saxons gave them land to stop the Vikings from attacking them. In AD 878, Alfred the Great made a peace deal with the Vikings which split England into Anglo-Saxon and Viking-controlled areas. The Viking area, known as Danelaw, was settled and peaceful.



Timeline

