

SOCIAL STUDIES / HISTORY · YEAR 3-5 / GRADE 2-4

Knowledge Organiser: The Vikings

Y3-5 history

How to use this organiser

A summary of what every child in this class will know about the Vikings by the end of the topic. Refer to it in lessons; cover and quiz; send home.

KEY DATES

When	What happened
AD 793	First major Viking raid on Britain — Lindisfarne monastery attacked
AD 865	The 'Great Heathen Army' invades England
AD 866	Vikings capture York and rename it Jorvik
AD 878	King Alfred defeats Vikings at Battle of Edington
AD 886	Treaty divides England — Danelaw (Viking) and Wessex (Saxon)
AD 1066	Battle of Stamford Bridge — last major Viking invasion fails

KEY VOCABULARY

Word	Meaning
Viking	A Scandinavian raider, trader and explorer (around AD 700-1100)



Word	Meaning
Longship	A long, narrow Viking ship — fast and shallow enough for rivers
Raid	A sudden attack to take treasure and people
Settlement	A place where Vikings stayed and built homes
Danelaw	The part of England controlled by Vikings
Saxon (Anglo-Saxon)	The people who lived in Britain before the Vikings arrived
Saga	A long Viking story, usually about heroes and gods
Runes	The Viking writing system — letters made from straight lines
Jarl	A Viking nobleman or chief
Thing	A Viking meeting where people made laws and settled disputes
Valhalla	The hall where brave warriors went after death
Berserker	A Viking warrior who fought in a wild rage

KEY GODS

God	What they ruled over
Odin	Chief god — wisdom, war, poetry. One eye (he traded the other for knowledge)
Thor	God of thunder. Wielded a hammer. Strong but not very clever
Freya	Goddess of love, beauty and war
Loki	Trickster god — caused trouble and chaos

KEY PEOPLE

Person	Why they matter
Alfred the Great	King of Wessex. Defeated the Vikings at Edington (AD 878) and saved England



Person	Why they matter
Eric Bloodaxe	Famous Viking king of Norway and York
Leif Erikson	Viking explorer — reached North America 500 years before Columbus
Harald Hardrada	Viking king who invaded England in 1066 — killed at Stamford Bridge

BIG IDEAS

QUESTIONS TO ANSWER BY THE END

