

THE WORLD AROUND US — HISTORY · P4–P7

Brian Bórainmhe agus na Lochlannaigh

Brian Boru and the Vikings — P4–P7

Vikings in Ireland

1

Vikings arrive (795 CE)

Norse Vikings began raiding the Irish coast from 795 CE — attacking monasteries for their treasures. Raids continued for decades, becoming settlements in the 9th century.

2

Viking settlements

Vikings founded several of Ireland's major towns: Dublin (Dyflinn), Waterford, Wexford, Cork, Limerick. These were trading ports — the Vikings were traders as well as raiders.

3

Brian Boru (c.941–1014)

King of Munster who rose to become High King of Ireland (Ard Rí) — the first king to effectively unite most of Ireland under one rule. Born near Killaloe, Co. Clare.

4

Battle of Clontarf (23 April 1014)

Brian Boru's forces defeated a Viking and Leinster alliance near Dublin. Over 10,000 men died. The Vikings never again threatened Irish sovereignty — though they continued to live in their Irish towns.

5

Brian Boru's death

Brian was killed in his tent after the battle — by Brodir of the Isle of Man, a Viking leader. He was 73 years old. He died as his forces won the battle.

6

Viking legacy in Ireland

Irish place names with Norse roots: Strangford, Wexford, Wicklow, Howth. Words: 'snám' (swimming), 'margadh' (market), 'pingin' (penny). DNA evidence shows significant Norse ancestry in coastal Irish communities.



