

## Year 5 Topic Snapshot

# RAIDERS AND INVADERS

### Who were the Vikings?

The Vikings were **Norse** people who came from an area called **Scandinavia**. They were great **explorers, voyagers, raiders** and **invaders!** They invaded and settled in England between **793 – 1066AD**.

### How can we learn about the Vikings?

Most of what we know was written by the **Anglo Saxons** (the people living in Britain when the Vikings arrived) and shows the Vikings as blood thirsty invaders.

**Archaeology** is another major source of evidence.

### Where is Scandinavia?

Scandinavia is in Northern Europe and is made up of three countries: **Norway, Sweden** and **Denmark**.

### How did the Vikings travel?

The Vikings were skilled shipbuilders and sailors. They built long, thin boats to use in battle—these were known as **'longships'**.

### Why did the Vikings travel?

The earliest Vikings were looking for riches—they **raided** and **looted!** Other Vikings came peacefully to settle and find a better life. Most Vikings were **farmers** and there wasn't much good farmland in their home countries. They also travelled to **trade** goods.

### When did the Vikings invade the UK?

In **A.D. 793**, a group of Viking **warriors** attacked **Lindisfame monastery** off the coast of Northumberland. This is thought to be the first Viking attack and marked the beginning of the Viking Age.

### What weapons did they use?

**Spears, axes, swords** and **daggers**. They used round **shields** for defence.

### What was Viking daily life like?

The Vikings lived in rectangular houses known as **'longhouses'**. Most Vikings were farmers and life was tough. They grew crops, ground grain, planted vegetables and looked after animals. Other jobs were; **jewellers, craft workers, blacksmiths** and **potters**.

### How was life different for men and women?

Viking women were capable and independent. They looked after the farms, did most of the cooking and made clothes. They were allowed to become wealthy landowners but had no public say in politics.

### What did the Vikings believe?

The Anglo-Saxons saw the Vikings as **'pagans'** as they were not Christian. Instead, they worshipped many gods. The chief gods were **Odin, Thor** and **Frey**.

