

# VIKING VOYAGES

## Key vocabulary:

**Nordic countries** —Denmark, Norway, Finland, Iceland, Sweden and their associated territories

**Scandinavia** —a subset of the Nordic countries: Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

**Vikings**- a civilization of people who attacked, invaded and settled in England and other countries between 793 – 1066AD. The Vikings largely came from Scandinavia.

**Chieftan**- The leader of a village or small group of people.

**Anglo-Saxons**— a civilisation of people who were living in Britain at the time when the Vikings invaded.

**Valhalla**— A place Vikings believed they would go if they died bravely in battle. This is where **Odin**, the king of the gods, lived.

**Longboats**— a long, wooden, narrow boat used by the Vikings.

**Pillaged**— to violently steal something.

**Invade**— to aggressively enter and occupy land.

**Settlement**— a place where people establish a community.

**Myths** — a traditional story, usually featuring a hero, which tells us about the history and beliefs of ancient people.

## Who were the Vikings?

The Vikings were **Norse** people who came from an area called **Scandinavia** (countries such as Norway, Sweden and Denmark). The Vikings left their homelands in Scandinavia and travelled by longboat to raid other countries like Britain and Ireland. Some came to fight, but others came peacefully to settle. The Vikings first arrived in Britain around AD 787. By AD 878, the Vikings had settled permanently in Britain.



## Our key texts:



## Did you know?

- The Vikings never wore horned helmets.
- The name 'Viking' means 'a pirate raid' in the Old Norse language.
- The Vikings worshipped many gods including 'Thor', the God of Thunder.

## Important people:

**King Alfred**— King of Wessex 871AD-899AD. Defended Wessex from Viking invasion.

**Athelstan**— First king to unite the English kingdoms in 927AD.

**Guthrum**— King of the Vikings in Danelaw at the time of the treaty with the Saxons.

**King Canute**— King of England, Denmark and Norway between 1028AD and 1035AD.

**Edward the Confessor**— penultimate Saxon King of England (before Harold II who lost at the Battle of Hastings).