

Key Vocabulary

Bersekers: Viking warriors.
Danegeld: "paying the Dane." King Ethelred paid the Vikings 4,500kg of silver to go home, but they kept returning and were paid 22,000kg of silver in **Danegeld** altogether.
Danelaw: The area of Britain controlled by the Vikings after 886.
Exile: to be sent away.
Invasion: to take over someone else's country by force.
Kingdom: an area ruled by a king or a queen.
Longship: a long, wooden, narrow boat used by the Vikings.
Migration: to move from one country to another to live there.
Outlawed: having all property taken away and no longer being able to live in the community.
Pagan: someone who follows **paganism** and worships many gods and goddesses.
Pillage: to violently steal something.
Raid: a surprise attack.
Scandinavia: the modern countries of Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Iceland. Where Vikings came from.
Valhalla: Viking heaven.
Wergild: a payment system used to settle disputes between a criminal and the victim.



A modern replica of a Viking Longship.

Timeline:

793: Vikings first raid Britain. The first Viking raid is on Lindisfarne Priory.
866: The Vikings capture York and make it their kingdom.
871: Alfred (The Great) becomes King of Wessex.
886: King Alfred defeats the Vikings but allows them to settle in north and eastern Britain - the **Danelaw**.
927: King Alfred's grandson Aethelstan defeats the Vikings and becomes the first king of all England.
1016: King Cnut of Denmark captures the English crown.
1066: Harold of Wessex becomes King, defeating Norseman Harald Hardrada, but later that year Normans attack and win the Battle of Hastings.

Anglo Saxon Kings and Kingdoms:

The kings of Anglo-Saxon Britain each ruled their own kingdom and the people in it. They fought to defend their kingdom or take control of other kingdoms. When the Anglo-Saxons first settled in Britain, there were seven kingdoms, but by AD 878 there was just one kingdom left (Wessex) as the others had been overrun by the Vikings. Many Anglo-Saxon kings tried to resist the Vikings and fought hard to keep control of their land. King Alfred the Great was the best known Anglo-Saxon king and the first to defeat the Vikings in battle.



The Seven Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms of Britain



Britain after 866, showing the Danelaw and the Kingdom of Wessex.