

AD 871
Alfred the Great becomes King of Wessex. He drives the invading Vikings from the south but they stay in the north and the east.

AD 870
Wessex is the last Anglo-Saxon kingdom.

AD 878
By this time, the Vikings had settled permanently in England, overrun Wessex and forced King Alfred into hiding.

AD 886
King Alfred agrees to a treaty with the Vikings. Alfred keeps the west and the Vikings are given the east which is later known as 'Danelaw'.

AD 900
The Vikings establish rule over Scotland.

AD 866
The Vikings capture the city of York.



Would you rather be an Anglo-Saxon or a Viking?



AD 954
The last Viking King of Jorvik (York), Eric Bloodaxe, is forced out of York.

AD 787
The Vikings attack from Norway. They attack the Monastery of Lindisfarne in Northumbria. The following year they attack northern Britain, in what we now call Scotland.

Key Saxons

- Ethelberht – the first English king to be converted to Christianity. His laws were also the first to be written in English (there were 90 laws in total).
- Alfred was born in AD849 and died in AD899. His father was king of Wessex. He fought the Vikings before making peace so that English and Vikings settled down to live together. He ruled well and made some important changes to the country.
- Edward III (the Confessor) – responsible for building Westminster Abbey (in the Norman style) and he was buried there after his death in 1066.

Key Vikings

- Eric Bloodaxe – the last Viking in England. An exiled son of Harald Finehair, king of Norway, he was invited to take over the kingdom of Jorvik (York) around 946 AD. He was welcomed by Athelstan, king of Wessex, who wanted Eric to protect his kingdom from Scots and Irish invaders. He was forced out by Viking rivals in 954 AD.
- Eric the Red - In 983 Eric was exiled by the people of Iceland and he sailed west to create a new settlement. He found a land that was a much bigger place than Iceland, and much colder too. It was not much good for farming though. Eric hoped the name 'Greenland' would attract farmers, but not many Vikings went there to live.
- Cnut (Canute) of Denmark - in 1016, Æthelred, king of England, died. His son, Edmund Ironside, made a truce with Cnut in which they agreed to divide the kingdom between them. Edmund died shortly afterwards and Cnut became king of the whole country. Three years later he became king of Denmark as well.

AD 1013
King Sven of Denmark and his son Cnut sail up the rivers Humber and Trent to claim the throne in Danelaw and Ethelred, the Saxon King, flees abroad.

Viking Gods and Goddesses

Thor	Hel	Loki	Odin	Freyr
Son of Odin and God of thunder and battle	Queen of the Viking underworld	Trickster and god of mischief	The "all father", god of war	God of fertility

AD 787
The Vikings first arrive in Britain.

AD 1014
King Sven dies and Ethelred returns to rule England again.



Key Vocabulary

- Longboat** a medieval ship which had a long, narrow, open hull, a single square sail, and a large number of oars.
- Warriors** a brave or experienced soldier or fighter.
- Raiders** a person who attacks an enemy in their territory
- Settlements** a place which has previously been uninhabited, where people establish a community
- Invaders** People who try to take over land from other people.
- Norse myths** Stories told by the Vikings about gods and goddesses, giants and strange creatures.
- Pagan** A person who believed in many gods.
- Danelaw** The area of England ruled by the Vikings.