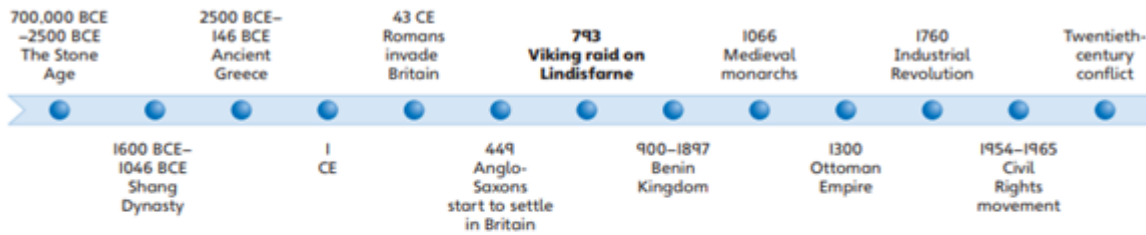




When did the Vikings invade?



How did they get here?



What you should already know:

The Anglo-Saxons invaded and settled in Britain from AD 450. They came from Scandinavian countries such as **Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands**. The three biggest were the **Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes**. By around AD600, after much fighting, Britain had been divided up into **five kingdoms**.

Around AD 787, there were other Scandinavian tribes known as the **Vikings** raiding European countries.

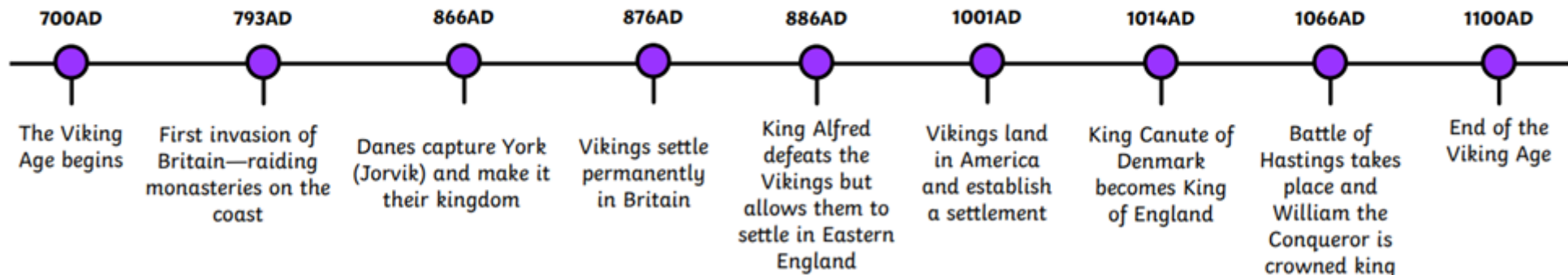
Who were the Vikings?

The Vikings were **Norse** people who came from an area called **Scandinavia** (countries such as **Norway, Sweden and Denmark**).

The Viking age in European history was from about AD700 to 1100.

During this period, many Vikings left their homelands in Scandinavia and travelled by longboat to other countries, like Britain and Ireland.

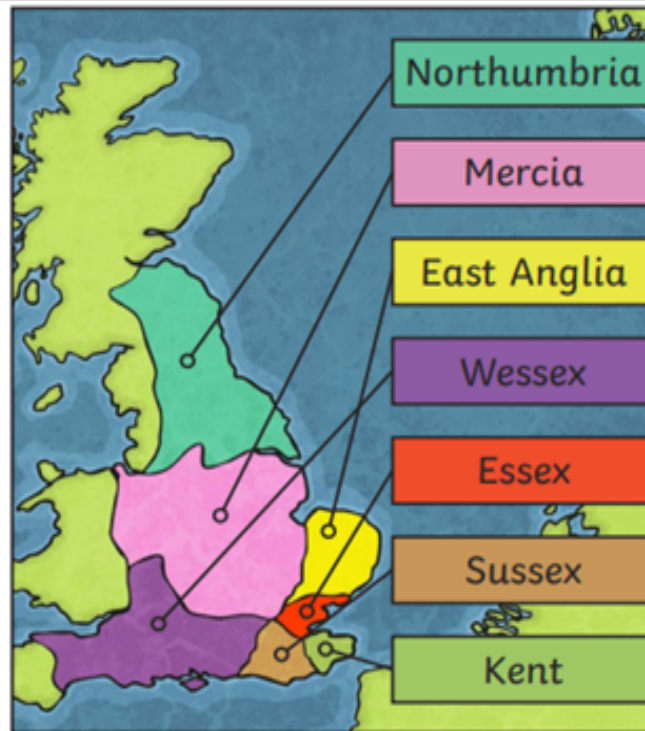
Viking Time Line



Use the map to navigate the Viking strongholds.

Significant People

King Alfred	King of Wessex from 871 to 889 and defended Wessex from the Vikings; Alfred called himself the King of the English
Aethelflaed	Skilful ruler who defended Mercia against the Vikings, and Alfred's daughter who later married Aethelred
Edward	Alfred's eldest son
Guthrum	Viking King of East Anglia at the time of the treaty with Alfred, and a leader of the Great Heathen Army; later called Aethelstan
Aethelstan	First king to unite (bring together) all of the English kingdoms in 927
King Aethelred II (the unready)	Introduced Danegeld (an official agreement with the Vikings)
King Canute	King of England, Denmark and Norway; he ruled England from 1016 to 1035



Norse gods

Odin	Chief god
Frigg	Chief goddess
Freya	goddess of love, fertility, battle and death
Thor	God of thunder
Loki	God of cunning and fire

Vocabulary

convert	persuade someone to follow a religion
Danegeld	Money paid to Vikings by the Anglo-Saxons to stop them invading and raiding England (the word means 'Danish payment')
Danelaw	The part of England which king Alfred agreed belonged to the Vikings
enslave	Make someone a slave (someone who is owned by another person and has to do as they're told)
monastery	Building where monks live and worship their god
pagan	A term that Christian churches gave to religions with more than one god
peace treaty	Agreement to stop fighting, which also tries to fix the cause of the conflict
plunder	Take things by force
raid	Attack by surprise, with the aim of stealing things
Vikings	People from Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden and Denmark); they were also called 'Norsemen' (men of the North) or 'Danes' (people from Denmark)