

Topic Knowledge Organiser: Raiders and Traders

Section 1 – Sources of Evidence

We can learn about the past by interpreting evidence. Sources of information can give us evidence.



Primary sources are immediate, first-hand accounts of a topic, from people who had a direct connection with it. Primary sources can include newspaper reports, diary entries, photographs and letters written at the time.

Secondary sources present, interpret and analyse primary sources. These sources are one or more steps removed from the event. Secondary sources may contain pictures, quotes or graphics of primary sources. Secondary sources include school textbooks, teachers, TV programmes and websites.

A **reliable source** is one that provides a thorough, well-reasoned theory, argument, discussion, etc. based on strong evidence. Reliable sources are often written by experts who have carried out fair research. Always consider whether a resource is reliable when using it to collect information.

Bias is the action of supporting or opposing a particular person or thing in an unfair way, by allowing personal opinions to influence your judgment. People have different views and beliefs. This plays a big part in how we interpret situations and affects how we judge an event. Some historical sources may be biased against the Vikings if they were written by people with strong views that differed greatly to the Vikings' views. For example the Christian monks may have been biased against the Vikings because the Vikings had pagan beliefs and worshipped many gods.

Section 2 – The Anglo-Saxons

The last Roman soldiers left Britain in AD410. New people came in ships across the North Sea – the Anglo-Saxons. The Anglo-Saxon age in Britain was from around AD410 to 1066.

Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms



The Anglo-Saxons were a mix of tribes from Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. The three biggest were the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes. The land they settled in was named 'Angle-land', or England.

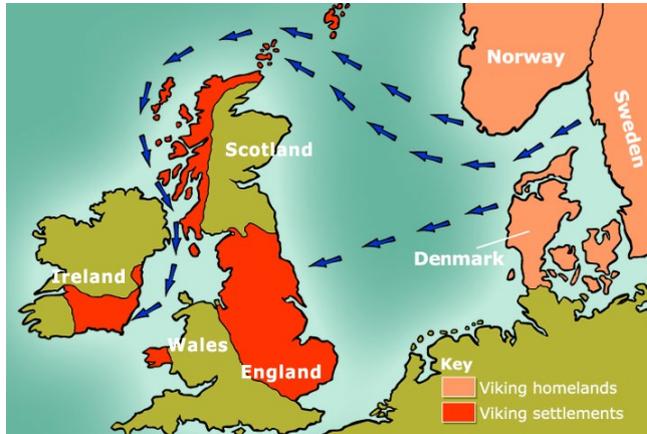
The Anglo-Saxon period has been thought of as a series of invasions but historians now think that some settlements may have been actually quite peaceful.

The English language has its roots in Old English which was spoken during the time of the Saxons. Many words we use today are based on Saxon original words, including the days of the week. Our modern counties are based on – sometimes identical to – old Saxon shires (counties). Anglo-Saxons did not live in existing Roman settlements but rather developed their own more rural (countryside) settlements.

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Section 3 – Vikings

The Vikings were famous for sailing huge distances from their homes in Scandinavia between AD793 and 1066 to raid and plunder (steal), but they also traded with people from other countries.



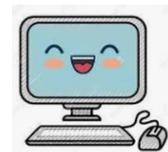
The Vikings were expert boat builders and sailors. Keels – central spines along boats' bottoms – made their 16 to 37m 'longboats' easy to steer, and because these were designed to float high in the water, landing on beaches was easy.

The first place the Vikings raided in Britain was the Christian monastery at Lindisfarne, a small holy island located off the northeast coast of England. Some of the monks were drowned in the sea, and others killed or taken away as slaves along with many treasures of the church.

The raid on Lindisfarne marks the start of the Viking migration from Scandinavia in AD793.

Section 4 – Safe computing

Internet safety is important to consider as we use the internet regularly for work, education and leisure.



When collecting information from the internet, we need to question the accuracy of the information regularly. Information can easily be presented in a biased way, sometimes even when the author does not intend this. (Bias is where someone's views or opinions influence how they interpret a situation – see Section 1 for a more detailed reminder). Ways of ensuring that information is accurate include making sure that you use reliable and trusted websites (for example, the BBC website); and checking information in several places before assuming that it is correct.

When using the internet, we must keep ourselves safe by following these rules:

- Do not share any personal information online
- Never agree to meet up with someone you meet online
- Be careful what you post – once something is online, you have no control about what happens to it
- Use strong passwords which include letters, numbers and characters
- Ask a trusted adult for help with anything unexpected that happens (for example, pop-ups which tell you that you have won something)

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