

Vikings

Who were they?

The Vikings were people who lived in Northern Europe during the Middle Ages. They originally settled the Scandinavian lands that are today the countries of Denmark, Sweden, and Norway. The Vikings played a major role in Northern Europe during the Middle Ages, especially during the Viking Age which was from 800 CE to 1066 CE.

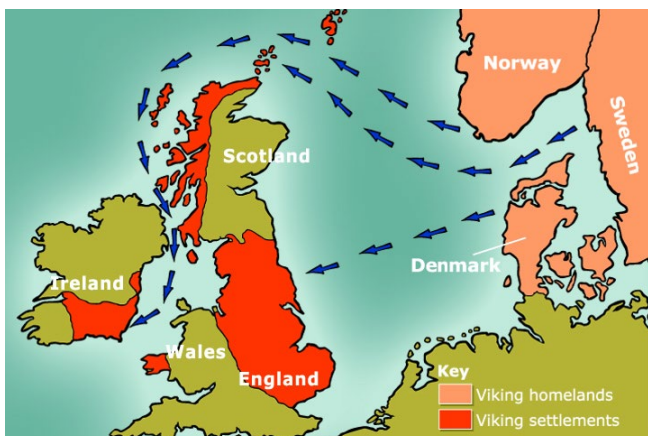


What did they do?

The word Viking actually means "to raid" in Old Norse. The Vikings would board their long ships and head across the waters to raid villages on the northern coast of Europe, including islands such as Great Britain. They first showed up in England to raid villages in 787 CE. The Vikings were known to attack defenceless monasteries when they raided. This got them a bad reputation as barbarians, but to the Vikings, monasteries were wealthy and undefended easy targets.

How did they travel?

Perhaps the Vikings were most famous for their ships. The Vikings made longships for exploration and raiding. Longships were long, narrow boats designed for speed. They were generally propelled using oars, but later had a sail to help out in windy conditions. Longships had a shallow draft, meaning they could float in shallow water, making them good for landing on beaches.



Vikings

Questions

1. Who were the Vikings? _____

2. What does the word Viking actually mean?

3. Where were the Vikings homelands?

4. Viking ships were called dragon boats? True / False

5. Why did the Vikings have a bad reputation?

6. When did the Vikings first show up in England?

7. Draw a picture of a Viking

