

## The Vikings Arrive

The Vikings came from the area of the modern Scandinavian countries (Denmark, Norway and Sweden).

They set out in boats called longships to 'go Viking' (which means to go travelling around looking for resources and land to claim as their own).

The Vikings first arrived in Britain around AD 787 and in AD 793 they raided and pillaged the monastery at Lindisfarne in Northumbria.



#### Glossary

Longship — a long, wooden, narrow boat used by the Vikings.

Pillage – to steal goods using violent tactics.

Raid – to suddenly attack a place.

### Raiders

The Vikings came to Britain looking for lucrative new items to steal and trade. In addition, they wanted land that they could take and claim as their own.

They particularly liked to raid monasteries, like the one at Lindisfarne. The monasteries were not very well protected and contained valuable goods like gold and jewels, imported foods and other useful materials.

The Vikings also stole manuscripts and bibles. These were sold back to the religious leaders who could not bear to see them lost or damaged.



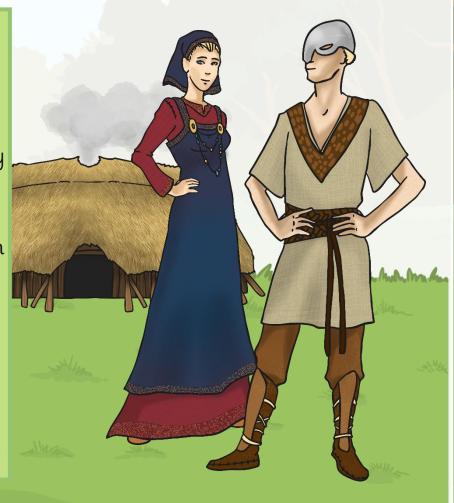
#### Invaders and Settlers

The Vikings went on to invade Scotland and in time they began to settle and stay there.

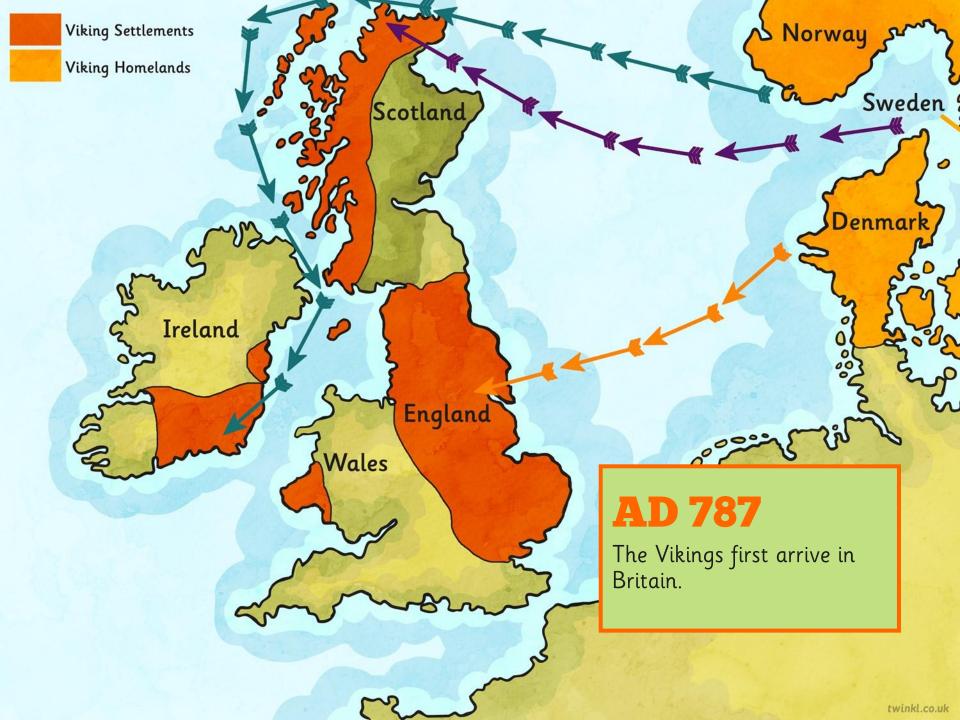
They were able to build up an army and in AD 866 they captured the city of York.

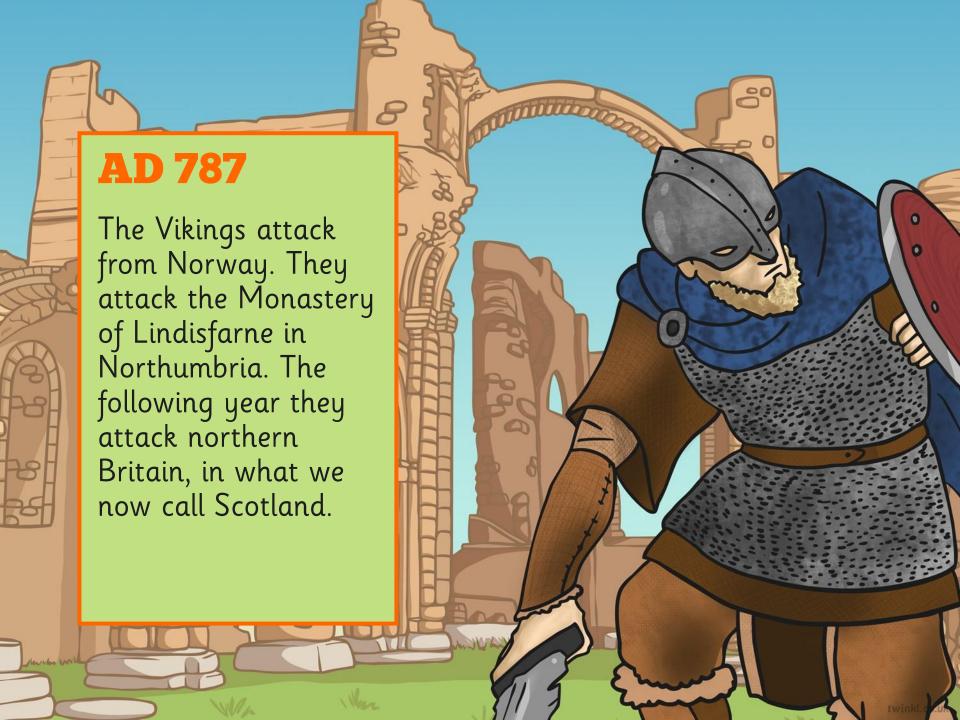
The Anglo-Saxon King Alfred the Great, who became King of Wessex in AD 871, managed to force the Vikings out of the South of England but this was short-lived.

By AD 878 the Vikings had settled permanently in England, overran Wessex and forced King Alfred into hiding. The Vikings were here to stay!









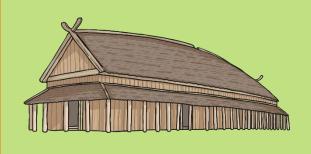




Alfred the Great becomes King of Wessex. He drives the invading Vikings from the south but they stay in the north and the east.



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





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'.





The Vikings establish rule over Scotland.



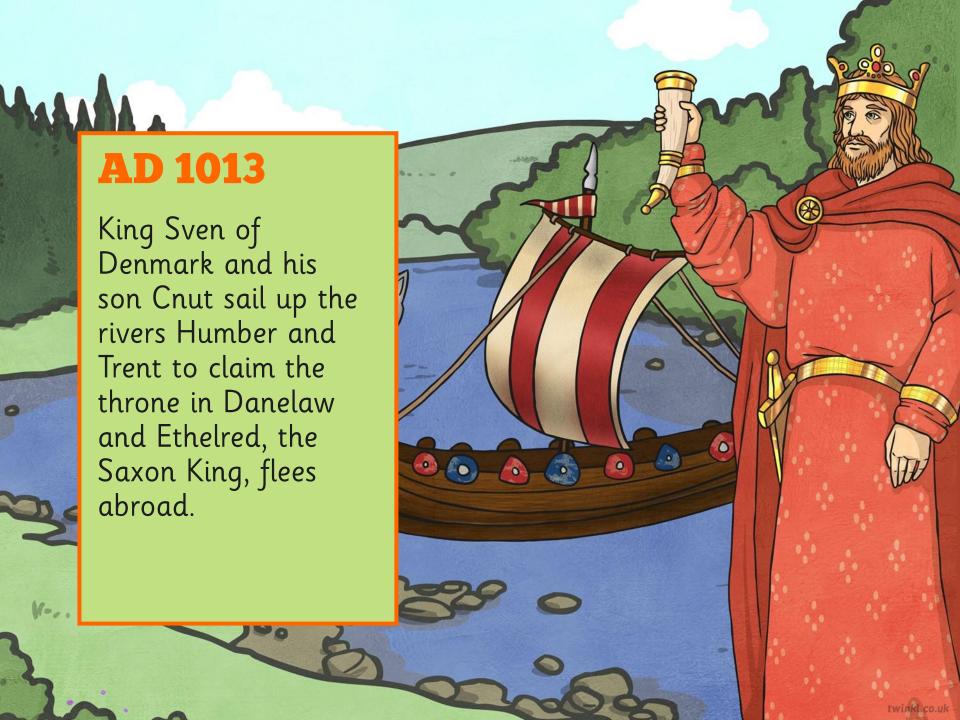




The last Viking King of Jorvick (York), Eric Bloodaxe, is forced out of York.







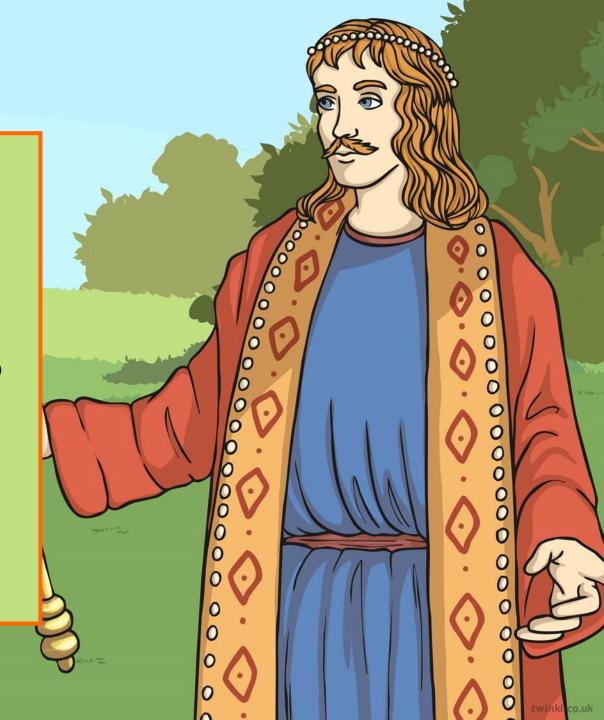
King Sven dies and Ethelred returns to rule England again.





King Ethelred dies.
His son, Edmund
Ironside, becomes
king for a few
months until he also
dies.

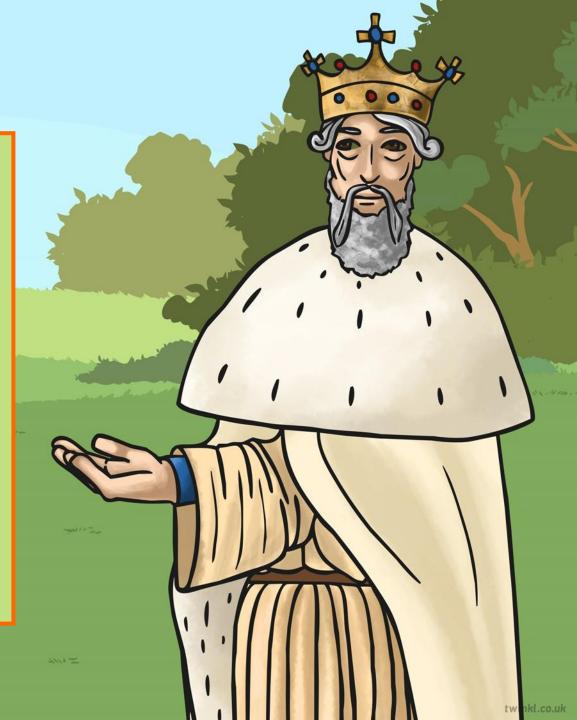
Cnut becomes King of the Danes and King of England.



King Cnut dies. His sons Harold Harefoot and Hardicanute share the ruling of England. Harold dies in 1040 and Hardicanute becomes the sole ruler of England.



Ethelred's second son, Edward III is invited to return from Normandy to become the King of England. Edward III was better known as 'Edward the Confessor' due to his extreme piety.



The last Anglo-Saxon king, King Harold, is defeated by William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings and Norman Britain begins.



## Viking Activities

Activity #1: create your own Viking Timeline to help you remember and order the important facts about the Vikings. If you are not able to print the activity, do you best to write the dates in order and include some information about each one. The timeline is included in the 'activities' document.



**Activity #2**: create a poster to provide more information about the Vikings. A suggested template is included in the 'activities' document. If you are not able to print the template, do you best to re-create the it in your book.

