

Year 5 Knowledge Organiser Spring Term

Invaders – Anglo Saxons and Vikings

TERMS Key Vocabulary

Invaders	Entering a country in large numbers by force
Settlement	A community in which people live
Migration	People moving from one place to another
Conquer	To defeat by force
Scandinavia	A region in Northern Europe which includes Denmark, Norway and Sweden
Archaeologist	People who work out our history by looking at artefacts that have been found.
Danelaw	An area of land in England that the Vikings controlled by law.
Trade	Buying, selling or exchanging goods or services between two or more groups of people or countries. This could be in exchange for more goods or for money.
Longships/longboats	A type of Viking ship that pioneered many of the design features still used today. Different types could be used for fighting, trading or exploring.
Longhouse	A type of Viking building that generally consisted of one room and was rectangular in shape. They were mostly made using wattle-and-daub and would have an entire family living in there.



COMPARE Similarities and Differences

- Houses:** Anglo Saxon compared to Viking houses
- Food:** What did the Anglo Saxons and Vikings eat? How is this different to what the Maya ate? Why?
- Writing:** How were Anglo Saxon and Viking runes similar and how were they different?
- Beliefs:** Different Gods.
- Invasions:** Where did the Anglo Saxons and Vikings invade from? Locate on a map.



SOURCES How We Know About the Anglo Saxons and Vikings

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle and Anglo-Saxon Law Codes & Charters

Sagas & Viking Poetry as well as Runic Inscriptions

Archaeology: Ship burials, settlements, hoards, and everyday tools provide physical evidence.

Place Names: Scandinavian-influenced names mark the Danelaw.

CHRONOLOGY When Did the Anglo Saxons and Vikings live?

Anglo-Saxon Period (c. 410 – 1066 AD)

Start: The withdrawal of Roman legions from Britain around 410 AD.

Settlement: Germanic tribes (Angles, Saxons, Jutes) began settling. End: The Norman Conquest in 1066, when William the Conqueror overthrew the Anglo-Saxon rule.

Viking Age (c. 790s – 1066 AD)

Arrival: First major raids around 793 AD (Lindisfarne).

Invasions: Large-scale invasions began in the 860s.

Coexistence & Conflict: Vikings settled in areas like the Danelaw, interacting and fighting with Anglo-Saxons.

End: The Norman Conquest, which also concluded the Anglo-Saxon era.



Extra Facts

Anglo-Saxon Fun Facts:

They were resourceful and used animal fat for oil, antlers for handles, and even cow hides for glue. They were superstitious, believed in magic and used charms.

Viking Fun Facts:

They explored far beyond Britain, creating vast trade networks.

They thought carefully about hygiene and invented combs to stay neat and tidy.

Due to curriculum changes, this term Year 4 and 5 will both be studying the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. In 2027 this will change so that Year 4 study the Anglo Saxons and Vikings topic, and Year 5 study the Tudors. The change could not happen this year as Year 5 have already studied the Tudors.

