

Explorers or invaders?

Year 2/3

Key Vocabulary	
Viking	Also known as Norsemen. Viking means 'to raid'. People who went off raiding ships were said to be 'going Viking'.
Invade	To enter and occupy land.
Explore	To travel to or into unfamiliar or unknown regions.
Settle	To live and take up residence in a place.
Longship	A long, wooden, narrow ship with a sail and oars, sometimes called a dragon-ship.
Monastery	A building where monks live.
Pagan	A person who believes in many gods.
Raid	A surprise attack.
Rune	A letter from the alphabet used by Vikings.
Danegeld	A tax that the English kingdoms paid the Vikings.
Danelaw	A part of England under Viking rule.

Key Facts
Not all Vikings were warriors. Many came in peace and became farmers.
Contrary to popular belief, Vikings did not have horned helmets.
The most important Viking British city was York, or Jorvik, as it was known by the Vikings.
Vikings were pagans and often raided monasteries looking for gold.
The Normans were originally Vikings from Scandinavia.
The English (Anglo-Saxons) lost the Battle of Hastings in 1066 and William of Normandy replaced King Harold as the king of England.

Viking Life
Farms —Vikings lived on farms and kept cows, pigs and sheep for milk, wool and meat.
Houses —Walls made of stone or wood. A straw roof. Wattle and daub (sticks and mud/dung) for inside the walls.
Jewellery —worn to show off how rich a person was.



Timeline	
AD 700	The 'Viking Age' begins.
AD 793	First invasion to Britain raiding the monasteries on the coast, including Lindisfarne.
AD 866	Danes capture York (which the Vikings called Jorvik)
AD 876	Vikings settle in Britain.
AD 886	King Alfred defeats the Vikings but allows them to settle in Eastern England.
AD 1001	Vikings land in America and establish a settlement.
AD 1014	King Canute of Denmark becomes King of England.
AD 1066	Battle of Hastings takes place, William the Conqueror is crowned King.
AD 1100	End of the 'Viking Age'.

