

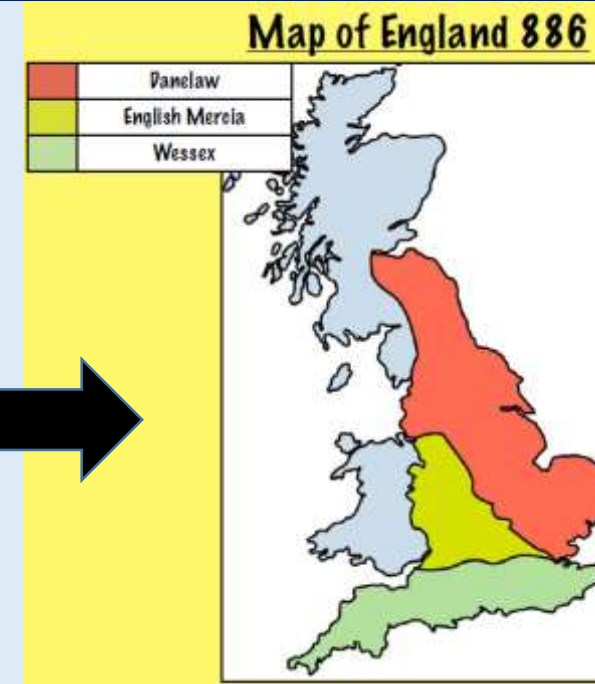
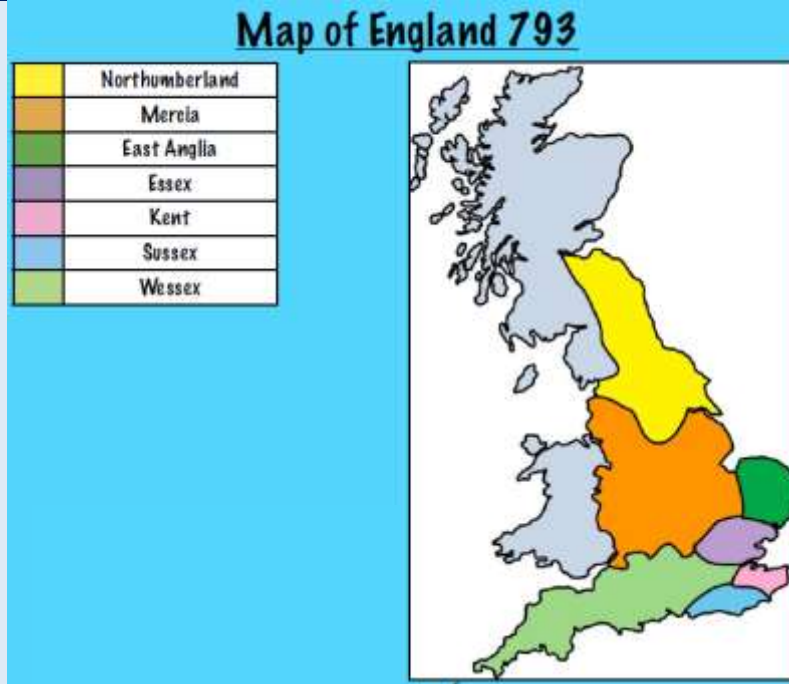
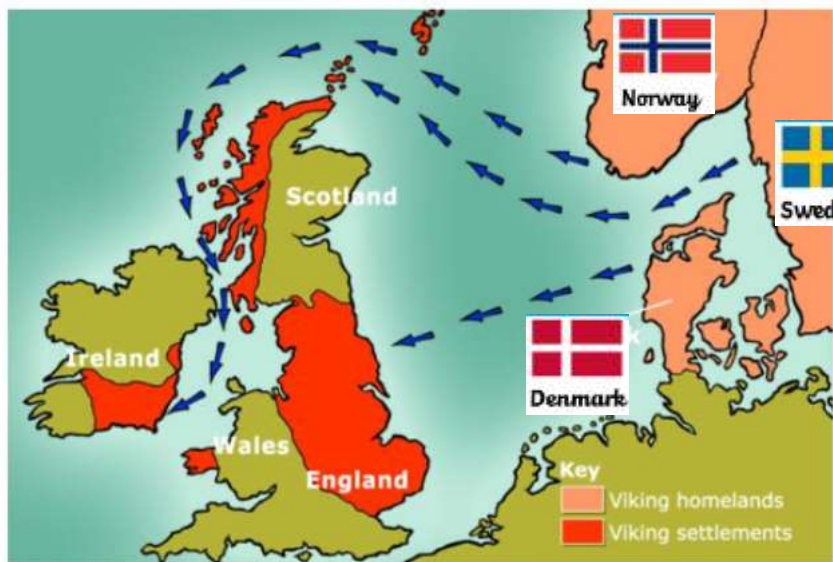
The Vikings

The Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor

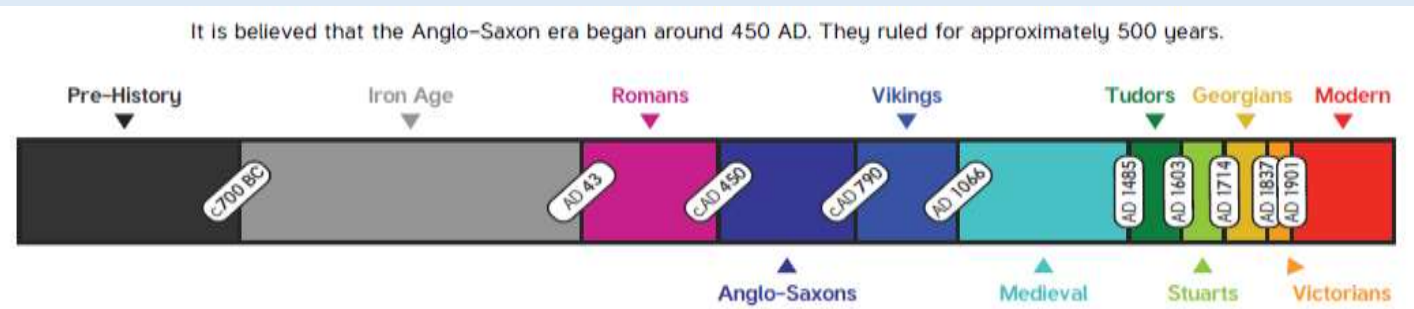
Where in the world?

- The Vikings came from Norway, Sweden and Denmark, a group of countries called the Norse countries, now known as Scandinavia.

What is the Geography?



When in history?



- The Vikings invaded Britain to gain riches and find farmland
- Scandinavia (especially Norway) was becoming overpopulated and there was not enough land to go around.



How was society organised?

Royal Power

- In the 900s and 1000s the Viking homelands were ruled by powerful Christian kings.

Jarls

- Wealthiest class.
- Owned large areas of land and ships.
- They could call up karls to join raiding bands or armies.

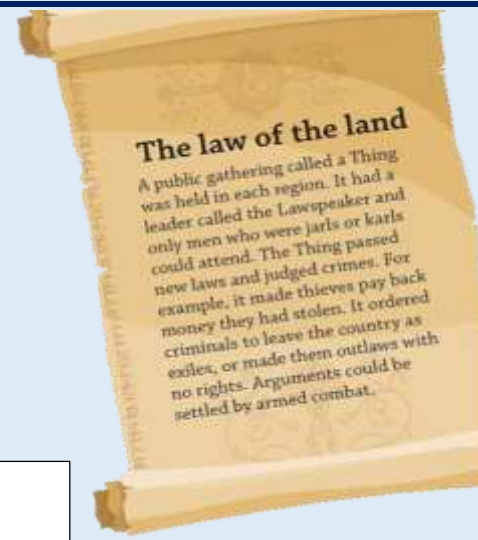
Karls

- Largest class.
- Ordinary people-rich or poor
- They worked as farmers, merchants, shipbuilders, smiths or woodcarvers.
- Joined longship crews and went raiding.


Thralls

- Slaves bought by traders or captured in raids.


Viking society
Early Viking kings ruled fairly small regions. For many years there was no powerful central government. For most communities, it was the local chieftain, or jarl, who was in charge. Free citizens were called karls. Slaves were called thralls.



Key people (rulers, inventors etc)

King Alfred (the Great) 

King of Wessex from 871-899 and defended Wessex from conquest.


Treaty of Wedmore 

Guthrum →

King Alfred →


King Athelstan


Thought of as the first king of England. (925-939)



Sweyn of Denmark

Began a series of attacks on England in 1002. Ethelred paid him Danegeld to keep him out but in 1013, Ethelred fled to Normandy and Sweyn was declared king.



King Cnut 



Son of Sweyn and made King to promote peace. (1028-1035)

1st King to rule all of the kingdoms of England. (Also King of Denmark and ruled much of Norway.)

Edward the Confessor

Penultimate Saxon king of England.


He commissioned Westminster Abbey.

William the Conqueror

Defeated Harold II (last Angli-Saxon king) in the Battle of Hastings which is shown on the Bayeux Tapestry.

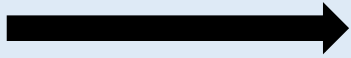
He changed the course of both Norman and English history.



What were their beliefs?



- The Vikings were Pagans and worshipped many gods
- The Vikings did eventually convert to Christianity.



Key information (Battles, landmarks, inventions - writing & number systems etc)

The Viking Invasion of Lindisfarne

When?

- ❖ The year 793
- ❖ Most sources agree it was June 8th

Where?

- ❖ Lindisfarne monastery, Holy Island, off the coast of Northumberland

Who?

- ❖ Vikings from Norway
- ❖ Monks living at the Lindisfarne monastery

What?

- ❖ Vikings attacked the monastery looking for treasures they could steal
- ❖ They plundered the monastery, taking gold, silver and precious jewels
- ❖ They massacred the monks who couldn't defend themselves against the Vikings
- ❖ They burnt the monastery down, taking their loot back to Norway

How?

- ❖ The Vikings sailed in longboats from Norway to the Northumbrian coast
- ❖ They were armed with weapons and armour
- ❖ The Lindisfarne monks lived quiet, peaceful lives and never expected a raid as monasteries were considered holy places that were left alone, even during war
- ❖ The monks were defenceless, allowing the Vikings to do whatever they wanted



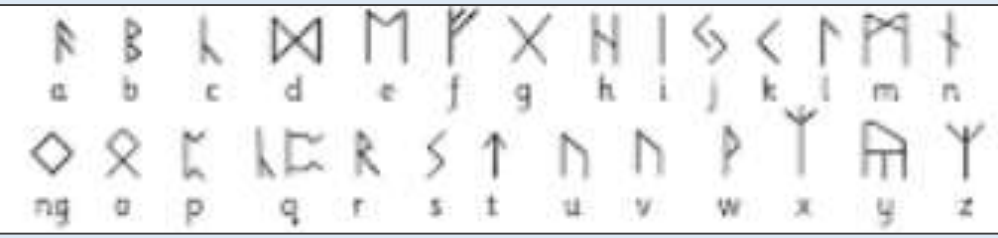
Because Norway, Sweden and Denmark have long coastlines, the Vikings used sailing as the quickest way to get around.

They developed fast, safe ships.

Ships, known as longboats, were often a sign of wealth and were so important to the Norse people that sometimes they were buried in them.



In Old Norse, "rune" means "secret knowledge and wisdom." Runic writing could be found on everyday items. Viking letters were also used to tell fortunes by being carved on small stones. The stones would be placed into a bag, which was shaken and the stones were then cast on the floor, with the ones face up used to predict the future.



Impact on us

We still use some of the same names of towns they used when they were here.

Some of our surnames are Norse (Jackson, Stevenson and Davidson)

They heavily influenced the rule of law and democracy,

The Vikings also were responsible for the world's now oldest parliament - the Tynwald - in the Isle of Man

