

YEAR 5 – ANGLO-SAXON AND VIKING CONFLICT

How did the struggle for power change England?

Enquiry Questions:

- 1) What was Saxon England like?
- 2) What are the Chronological links and Concurrent timelines?
- 3) How did the Saxons view the Vikings?
- 4) How should we view the Vikings?
- 5) What were the causes and effects of the era?
- 6) Was King Alfred really 'great'?



Key Vocabulary:

Danegeld – "Paying the Dane". King Etherlred paid the Vikings 4500kg of silver to go home but they kept returning and were paid 22,000kg of silver in Danegeld altogether.

Danelaw– Area of England that officially belonged to the Vikings

Exile – To be sent away.

Invade - To enter and occupy land.

Kingdom– An area ruled by a king

Longship– A long, wooden, narrow boat used by the Vikings.

Outlawed – Having all property taken away and no longer being able to live in the community.

Paganism - A religion where many gods and goddesses are worshipped.

Pillaged - To violently steal something.

Raid- A surprise attack.

Settlement – a place where people live and work.

Wergild – A payment system used to settle disputes between a criminal and the victim or their family

Wessex– A major Anglo-Saxon kingdom that existed before England became one country.

Anglo-Saxons

A cultural group that lived in what is now England in the early middle ages before it became a unified country.

Vikings

A large band of tribal warrior people that crossed seas to raid, trade and settle in many countries across Europe.

Alfred the Great

A Saxon king who ruled from 871AD to 899AD. He was praised for his brave defence of his kingdom against the much stronger Vikings, and later negotiating peace with them.



Movement and Migration

Movement of Vikings from Scandinavia into England, and the changes in the settlements of Anglo-Saxon people.



Society

Conflicting attitudes towards religion and beliefs at the time from the perspectives of both Saxon and Viking people.



Culture

Evidence of architecture and artefacts that demonstrate the interests of the time period. Evidence of increased cultural contact with Europe.



Trade

Evidence of a sophisticated trade growing, from strictly local ventures within isolated kingdoms to a unified England trading with other European nations.



Achievements and Legacy

Exploring the biases of Saxon viewpoints towards the Vikings as vicious raiders, and comparing that to modern evidence of nuanced culture.



Governance

Exploring the political changes in England, from breaking the country into Danelaw & Saxon regions to a unified England as a single nation.