



# St Johns Middle School Academy Knowledge Organiser

## Year 6 Autumn 1: The Vikings and the making of England?



Where did the Vikings settle in Britain?	What happened to the Vikings?	Key Dates	
<p>Danelaw covered an area east of their line joining London and Chester. Everything to the east belonged to the Vikings.</p> <p>There were three main areas where Vikings lived -</p> <p>Northumbria (which included modern-day Yorkshire), East Anglia, and the Five Boroughs. A borough was a town and the five towns were Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Stamford and Lincoln.</p>  <p>Viking families came to settle on these lands. Good farmland was scarce in the Vikings' own countries, and they were looking for a better life.</p> <p>They were also attracted to Britain because of precious metals.</p> <p>They began by raiding the coasts and monasteries, then started to try and invade.</p>	<p>English kings gradually recaptured more and more land from the Vikings.</p> <p>Alfred's son Edward fought for control of the Danelaw and Alfred's grandson, Athelstan, pushed English power north as far as Scotland.</p> <p>In 954, the Anglo-Saxons drove out <b>Eric Bloodaxe</b>, the last Viking king of <b>Jorvik</b>. Later, when Eric was killed in battle, the Vikings agreed to be ruled by England's king.</p> <p>In the early 11th century, England had a weak king. His name was <b>Ethelred the Unready</b>. Ethelred tried to stop the Vikings from invading by giving them gold and land. This money was called <b>Danegeld</b>. But it didn't work - the Vikings took the gold and attacked anyway.</p> <p>In 1002, Ethelred's soldiers killed many Viking families in the Danelaw. This made <b>King Sweyn</b> of Denmark angry. He invaded England and Ethelred had to flee to France.</p> <p><b>Key terms</b></p> <p><b>Raid</b> = a rapid surprise attack on an enemy, in this case to steal items and take them away.</p> <p><b>Invade</b> = travel to a place and try to take over it by using force.</p>	793	The Vikings raid the monastery of Lindisfarne, killing monks and setting fire to the buildings.
		806	In the third Viking attack on Iona (An island in Scotland) 68 monks are killed. Vikings continue to raid monasteries and towns along the coasts of England, Scotland and Ireland.
		829	Wessex becomes the Supreme Kingdom.
		851	Athelstan, son of the king of Wessex, defeats a Viking fleet in battle.
		866 - 77	Invasion of the Great Danish (Viking) AKA Heathen Army.
		867	The Vikings kill rival kings of Northumbria and capture York - The city becomes Jorvik, the Viking capital in England.
		878	Wessex is overrun by Vikings and King Alfred goes into hiding.
		886	England is divided due to the Treaty of Wedmore - The Saxons retain the west, while the east was to be Viking territory - later known as the ' <b>Danelaw</b> ' - where the English and Vikings were equal in law.
		926	Eastern England is conquered by the Saxons.
		927	Athelstan, king of Wessex, takes York from the Vikings.
		939	Athelstan, first king of all England dies.
		954	Eric Bloodaxe, the last Viking ruler, is forced out of Jorvik (York).
1013	Sweyn Forkbeard (A Viking) leads an invasion of England and briefly becomes King.		
1016	King Cnut becomes King of England, then later Denmark and Norway as well. Sometimes known as 'Cnut the Great'.		

