

# History Knowledge Organiser

## Year 4

### Spring (ii)

## What is the significance of the raids on Lindisfarne?

**Substantive Knowledge – The Viking raid on Lindisfarne was significant and affected The Anglo-Saxons; we have primary sources of evidence which tell us about Viking settlements (these include their place names). We know about Viking punishment.**

### The Significance of the Viking Raids on Lindisfarne

As well as marking the beginning of the Viking invasion, the raid on Lindisfarne also shows us that Christianity was now part of Britain; that parts of Britain had little defence; that migration was still commonplace and that expensive artefacts, books and art were primary sources of evidence at the time. This helps us to understand the past.

### How the Raids Affected Anglo-Saxons

In **795 AD**, Viking longboats arrived at the monastery on the Scottish island of **Iona**. The raiders killed the monks who lived there and stole anything of value.

For the next few hundred years, Scotland's islands and coastal communities would be regularly raided by these terrifying warriors.

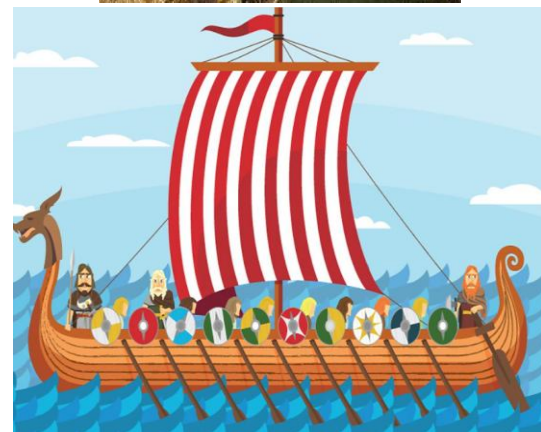
Most of what we know about the Viking raiders comes from the tales of the survivors of these raids rather than the Vikings themselves.

The survivors tell of ships shaped like dragons, of brutal killings, and whole villages burned to the ground. The raids were so awful that the monastery on Iona was abandoned.

The Vikings raided to steal gold from monasteries and also to take people as slaves. The things they stole they often sold so they could buy the things they wanted.

The Vikings usually carried out their raids during the summer months when it was safer and easier to cross the sea from their home in Norway. The rest of the year they would have farmed the land and raised animals for food.

For Vikings, bravery in battle was very important and raiding was a way of showing just how brave you were.



### Did you know?

The Viking boats were long and narrow and so were called longboats. Often they had carved figures at the front such as dragons and serpents.

## Viking Settlements and Place

### Names

Later on, instead of raiding and returning home, the Vikings set up home in the lands they raided. Many of Scotland's islands and coastal regions became home to Vikings from across the sea. Many of these places - such as **Stornoway, Lerwick, and Dingwall** - are still known by the names the Vikings gave to them.

- **-thorpe**: secondary settlement (but in the Midlands could be Old English Throp meaning settlement) - Copmanthorpe
- **-thwaite**: originally thveit, woodland clearing. - Slaithwaite and Huddersfield
- **-toft**: site of a house or building - Lowestoft, Langtoft
- **-keld**: spring - Threlkeld
- **-ness**: promontory or headland. Note: Sheerness is Old English; Inverness is Gaelic (meaning mouth), Skegness is Old Norse
- **-by**: farmstead, village, settlement - Selby, Whitby
- **-kirk**: originally kirkja, meaning church - Ormskirk

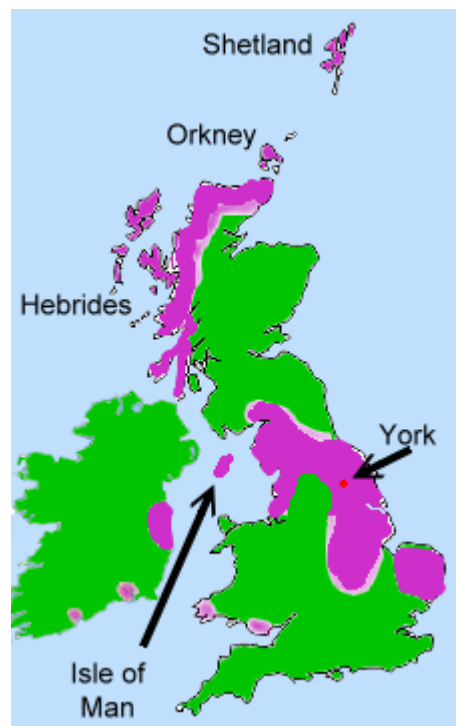
They lived in **long rectangular houses made with upright timbers (wood)**. The walls were made of wattle (woven sticks, covered with mud to keep out the wind and rain). Viking houses were often one room homes with a cooking fire in the middle. The smoke escaped through a hole in the roof.



### Core Vocabulary

**Raid**— an attempt to attack a place in order to steal and damage property

**Settlement**— a place where human beings settle to live



### Crime and Punishment

Norse society was governed by quite strict laws which were discussed and decided upon at a meeting called a **Thing**.

If a person was found guilty the relevant punishment would be handed out by the law-speaker.

**Killing** – outlawed or executed

**Witchcraft** – drowning

**Stealing** – receive a fine

Slaves included people who Vikings had captured in their raids – including Celts and Anglo-Saxons

### Portable Knowledge - What we need to remember

**Lindisfarne is also called Holy Island and is off the north east coast of England. Irish monks settled in Lindisfarne in 635 C.E. The Vikings raided Lindisfarne (which was unprotected) for its expensive art, books and treasures. This was the beginning of the Viking settlement in England.**

**Vikings were primarily farmers and fishermen.**

**Viking punishments included torture and slavery.**