



# Vikings - Conquest

# Viking expansion

- Vikings from different parts of Scandinavia had different reasons for looking at lands farther away.
- ‘Swedish’ Vikings wanted to trade and tended to look East and travels throughout ‘Europe’ and into ‘Asia’ and ‘Africa’
- ‘Norwegian’ Vikings wanted more land and travelled West. They settled in Scotland, Ireland, Iceland and then on to Greenland.
- ‘Danish’ Vikings looked to the West; Ireland, Wales and particularly the richer areas of England.

Expansion = moving to get other lands



# Reasons for expansion

- There are many reasons given for the Vikings looking to get lands further away and oversea:

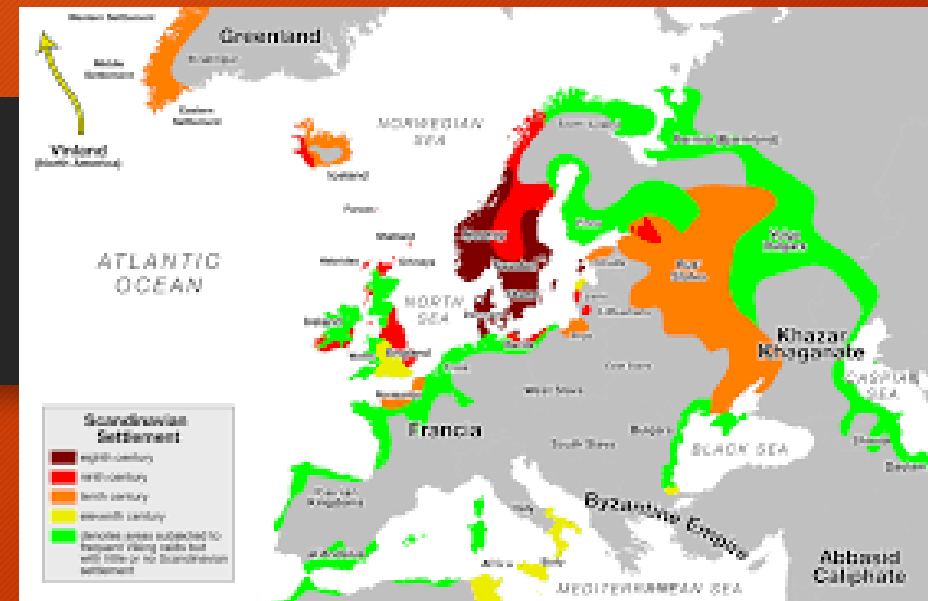


- Trade
- Population increase lead to younger Vikings wanting land of their own
- Possible need for more farming land to feed the Viking population
- Revenge upon people who had battled them previously

# Settling & Trading

- Some Vikings settled and formed their own communities without battles.
- Settlements were formed in Scotland, Iceland and Greenland.
- Sometimes families settled.
- Sometimes Vikings married into local communities.

Community = group of people



- Vikings created place for trading.
- These grew into major cities.
- People would come from near and far to barter/exchange their goods.
- Vikings would transport their exports from Scandinavia and import items back to their homelands.
- Major centres included Dublin, York, Novgorod, Kiev and Constantinople.



# Raids



- Sometimes the Vikings were involved in raids to take treasures, goods and land.
- Rich monasteries and churches in England were easy targets.
- These had lots of silver treasures and were not defended.

- The earliest recorded Viking raid was on the religious abbey of Lindisfarne in North East England.
- The Vikings killed the monks and took their treasures and slaves.

Abbey = place of religious worship



# Conquests

- After many raids larger Vikings groups or armies started to battle and take land as well as the treasures, goods, and crops.
- Many English kingdoms battled against these Viking armies but were defeated.
- The Vikings began to settle in these areas.



Conquest = take over of other peoples land

# Danelaw

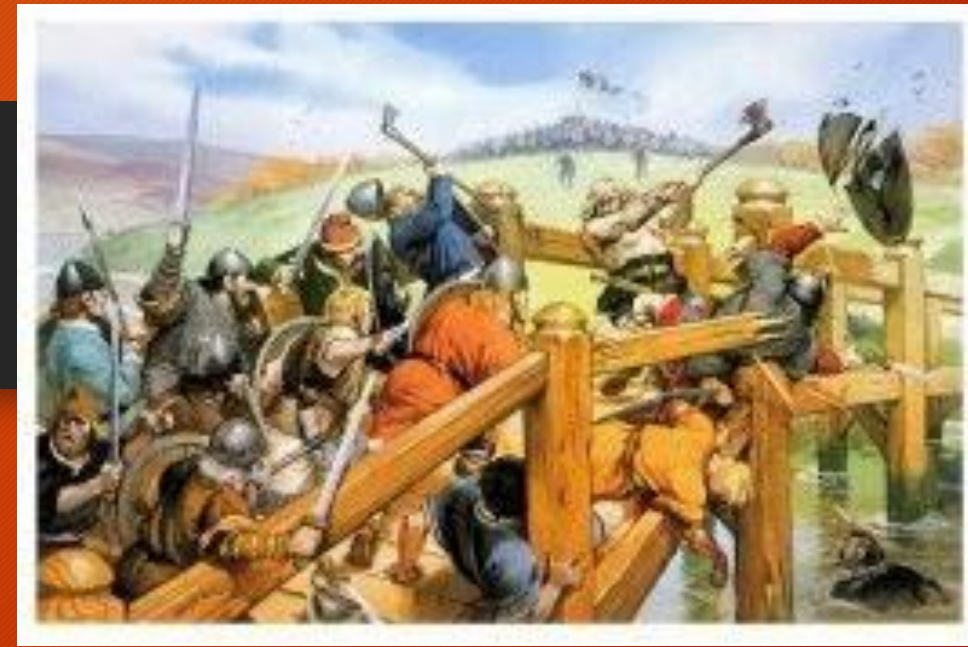
- Eventually, to prevent further battles and loss of land the English kings signed treaties to give the Vikings a huge area of land.
- This land was known as Danelaw.
- It stretched from London in the south to Northumberland in the north (following the River Mersey).

- Danelaw included 5 major locations:
- Leicester
- Derby
- Nottingham
- Stamford
- Lincoln
- During this time there was peace in England





# End of Danelaw



- Eventually fighting broke out between the Vikings and English again.
- The English armies began to win major battles.
- Eventually they recaptured land and the major trading city of Jorvik (York).
- Defeat at the Battle of Stamford Bridge marked the end of Danelaw for the Vikings.
- Some Vikings returned to their homelands, others settled into these English communities



# Other areas conquered

- The Viking conquered other areas.
- A major conquest was the area of Normandy in North East France
- The child of one of these Kings became King of England, he was called William the Conqueror



# Viking Raids in Writing

- This story is from a Viking Saga:
- *When Thorald was about twenty years old he made up his mind to go on a Viking expedition, so his father gave him a longship. Evind and Obir joined him with another longship and a good number of men, and they spent the summer plundering. There was plenty of loot so each man got a good share. That's how things were for a number of years - every summer they'd go on Viking expeditions and every winter they would stay at home with their families and parents. Thorold brought his parents a lot of valuable things.*



# Viking Raids in Writing

- This is what a French monk wrote about Viking raids in France:
- *The endless flood of Vikings is on the increase. Everywhere, Christ's people are the victims of massacre, burning and theft. The Vikings destroy everything. Towns are emptied and evil triumphs! Monks, townspeople and everyone else have been killed or taken prisoner. Monasteries along the river Seine have been destroyed. The Vikings have left the remaining people in a state of terror.*

# Viking Raids in Writing

- Along the margins of another book are these words. They were probably written by an Irish monk.
- ***Rough is the wind tonight  
Tossing the sea's white hair.  
I need not dread the fierce Viking  
Crossing the Irish Sea.***





# What the Vikings left

- When the Vikings returned to their homelands they left lots that remind us of them.
- People: lots of people can trace their ancestors back to the Vikings
- Names: Last names ending in son, like Anderson and Rogerson. Others like Linklater and Flett.
- Place names: Places with \_wick, like Lerwick and Wick. Others ending in \_by, like Whitby and Selby. Also \_thorp.
- Language: Lots of words that we use come from Viking times: husband, knife, window. Anger, bairn, bag, egg, fog, gift, glitter and many more!

# Activities

- Worksheet:
- Complete the Viking Conquest worksheet. Fill in the map and answer the questions.
- This slideshow will help you.
- If you have time this is a very informative video  
<https://youtu.be/vZtsaUigoOw>
- (Ignore the quite long app advert near the start)
- Make a list of 10 of your favourite words from Viking time that we still use.
- Use these weblinks to help you:
  - [Wikipedia Old Norse \(Viking\) words](#)
  - [Norse word you already know](#)