

Key Vocabulary

Archaeologists	People who work out our history by looking at artefacts that have been found.
Raids	A sudden armed attack against it, with the aim of causing damage rather than occupying any of the enemy's land.
Vicious	To be intentionally harmful or nasty. Vikings warriors were known to be vicious.
Longhouse	A large hall like building where many Viking families would live together.
Berserkers	Warriors that went to war wearing wolf or bear skins. They were out of control and charged fearlessly. The word 'berserk' came from it.
Longship	The narrow boat used by Vikings to raid along coasts.
Odin	One of the most famous Viking Gods known for wisdom.
Scandinavia	The name given to the collection of countries: Denmark, Norway and Sweden.
Danelaw	The name given to lands in Britain occupied by the Vikings.
Misconception	This means mis-understanding. In Viking terms there were many misunderstandings about the Vikings.
Jorvik	The Viking name for the city of York. York now has a famous Viking museum called Jorvik.

Why didn't the Vikings sink?

Children will know and understand the history of these islands as a coherent, chronological narrative, from earliest times to the present day: how people's lives have shaped this nation and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world.

Background Knowledge

Children will link to learning about other invaders and settlers such as the Romans. They will understand that artefacts help us to know about the past.

Other information

Did you know the names for most of the days of the week originate from Vikings?

Monday – linked to the moon by the name Mani – Norse for Moon.

Tuesday – named after the Viking God of War – Tyr.

Wednesday – named after Woden.

Thursday – named after Thor, the God of thunder.



Key Facts

Not all Vikings were warriors. Many came in peace and become farmers.

The lands that the Vikings occupied were known as Danelaw.

Not many Vikings, if any, wore horns in their helmets.

Vikings spoke Norse, which had an alphabet made up of runes.

Longships were designed to sail in both deep and shallow water so that they could get close to the shore so they could not be easily seen.

Vikings were pagans and often raided monasteries, looting gold.

The most important Viking British city was York or Jorvik as it was known by the Vikings.

Other information

