

Geography Knowledge Organiser

Year 4

Summer (ii)

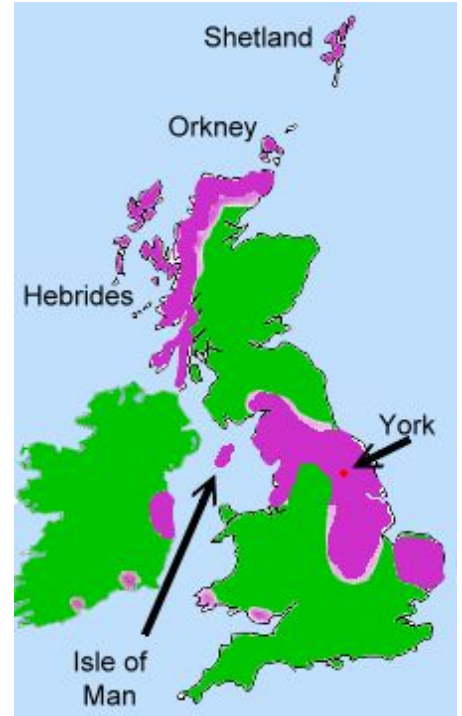
How do Viking settlements compare ?

Substantive Knowledge -

The Viking settlements of Orkney, The Hebrides, Shetland and York are sources of evidence about Viking life.

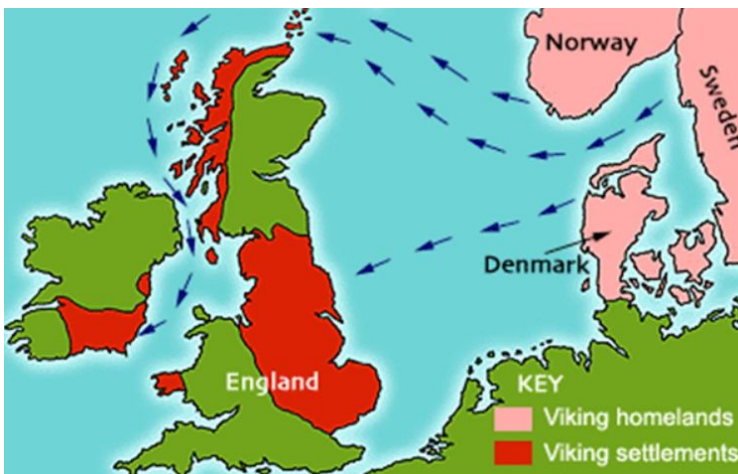
Viking settlements in England

The Vikings settled in Orkney, The Hebrides, Shetland and York. Orkney, The Hebrides and Shetland were chosen as settlements due to their cool and temperate climate, low lying land with rugged cliffs, freshwater lochs and fertile farmland. York was a key Viking settlement. It was originally an Anglo-Saxon settlement and was taken by the Vikings because it was an ideal location for further invasion. It was a key market town for trading and was extended outwards by the Vikings to create more farms.



Trade and travel routes

The Vikings traveled by ship from Denmark, Sweden and Norway. The Vikings traded all over Europe and as far east as Central Asia. The Vikings did not use maps. Vikings sailed close to the coast whenever possible, watching for landmarks. Out of sight of land, they looked for the sun: west (towards the sunset) meant they were headed for England; east (towards the sunrise) meant home to Denmark or Norway.



Core Vocabulary

Highlands – elevated or mountainous land

Location – A location is the place where a particular point or object exists.

Settlement – Settlements are places where people live and sometimes work.

Did you know?

The Vikings invented a kind of sun-shadow board or sundial to help find their way. At night they watched the skies and could use the position of the stars to determine which direction they were heading.

Vikings in the Highlands

The Vikings invaded and settled in the highlands (Orkney, The Hebrides) in Scotland. The highlands were chosen as settlements due to their cool and temperate climate, low lying land with rugged cliffs, freshwater lochs and fertile farmland.



The Vikings traded across the Eastern and Western world. Viking ships reached Britain, France, Spain, Italy and North Africa. Traders made long journeys overland through Russia, reaching as far south as Constantinople in modern-day Turkey. Some merchants traveled further east to Baghdad in Iraq.

