

History Knowledge Organiser

Year 4

Summer (ii)

How did Alfred the Great resist invasion and what was his legacy?

Substantive Knowledge - What we need to know

King Alfred was called, 'Alfred The Great,' and he was the first King of England. England became a unified country in C.E. 827.

King Alfred – Alfred the Great

King Alfred was the first King of England from 871, until his death in 899. He was known as Alfred The Great for his valiant

defence of his kingdom against a stronger enemy, for securing

peace with the Vikings and for his farsighted reforms in the reconstruction of Wessex and beyond. He was called "Alfred the Great," because of his successful military campaigns against the Vikings, his cultural and educational reforms, and his efforts to promote law and justice.



Resistance by Alfred the Great and Athelstan, First King of England

Alfred the Great was the King of Wessex from 871 to 899 C.E. He successfully defended his kingdom against Viking attacks and is credited with laying the foundations for a unified England.

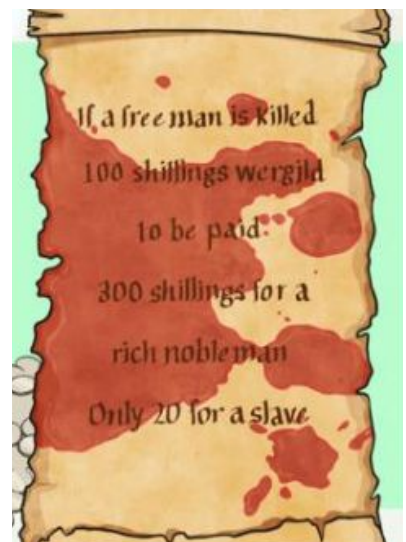
Athelstan was the grandson of Alfred the Great and the first king to be called "King of England". He defeated the Vikings at the Battle of Brunanburh in 937 CE.

Law and justice

The Anglo-Saxon legal system was based on customary law, which varied from place to place.

The system was centred around the idea of compensation, or "wergild", which was paid to the victim or their family as a form of restitution for crimes such as theft or murder.

Crimes were judged by a local assembly, or "moot", which was made up of free men who had sworn an oath to uphold the law.



Norse literature

Norse literature and mythology included stories of female warriors known as "shieldmaidens" who fought alongside men in battle.

Two of the most famous shieldmaidens were Skadi and Freyja, both of whom were associated with war and death.

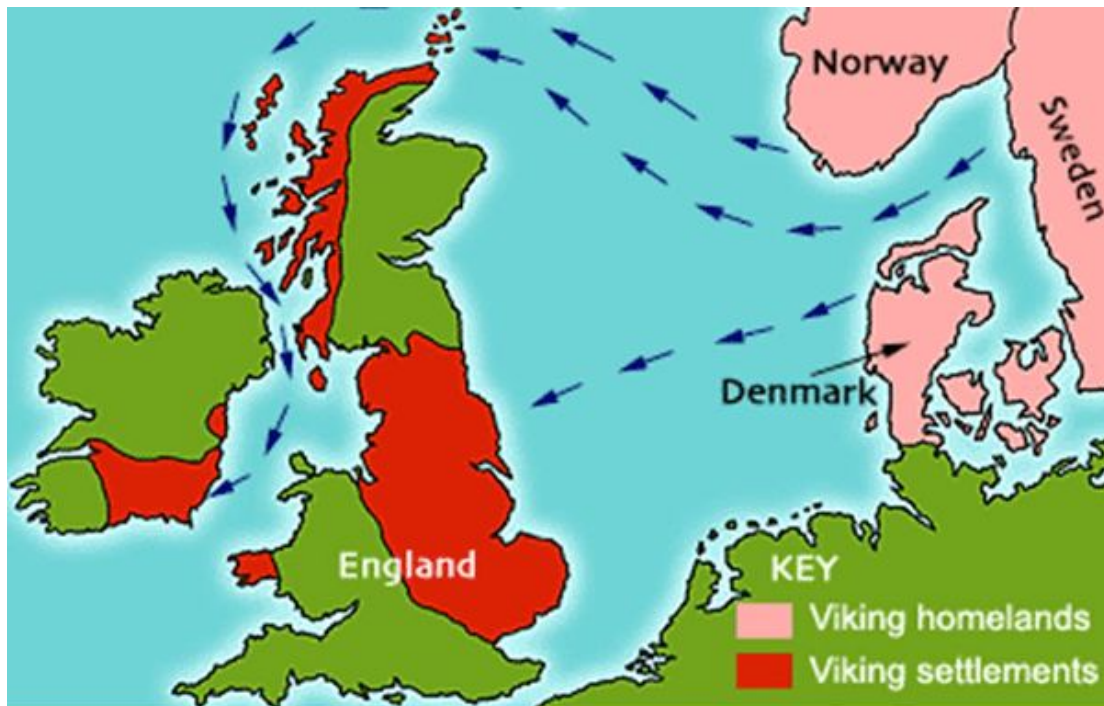
Viking raids, invasions and settlements

Vikings were warriors and seafarers from Scandinavia who raided and traded across Europe and the North Atlantic from the late 8th to the mid-11th century.

They were known for their longships, which were fast, maneuverable, and able to travel up rivers.

Vikings first attacked the British Isles in 793 CE when they raided the monastery at Lindisfarne.

They continued to raid and invade Britain for over 200 years, eventually establishing settlements in places such as York, Dublin, and the Isle of Man.



The End of the Anglo-Saxon and Viking Era in Britain – The Battle of Hastings 1066

The Battle of Hastings took place on October 14, 1066, between the forces of William, Duke of Normandy, and the army of Harold Godwinson, the last Anglo-Saxon king of England.

The Normans were victorious, and William was crowned king, marking the end of the Anglo-Saxon and Viking era in Britain.

The Norman Conquest had far-reaching effects on English society, language, and culture.

Portable Knowledge – What we need to remember

Alfred the Great resisted invasions. He was an advocate of reading and writing and The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles were written during his reign.

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

Core Vocabulary

chronicle – a historical account of events arranged in order of time usually without analysis or interpretation.

reign – the period of time during which a king, queen, emperor, etc., is ruler of a country.

succeed – take over a throne