

# Year 4 Autumn Unit: The Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor



## Enquiry Question: Why did the Vikings invade England?

**Historical Concept:** causation, evidence, interpretation

### Key Unit Vocabulary

**Convert** - to change from one religion to another

**Danegeld** - a land tax to raise funds for protection against Danish invaders

A restored Viking longship located in Kent.



**Longship** - the boats used by the Vikings

**Monastery** - buildings occupied by a community of monks living under religious vows

**Polytheism** - the belief in or worship of more than one god

**Viking** - the word "Viking" comes from the Norse word "vikingr" meaning pirate

### Key Unit Facts

- Around the time of the end of Roman Britain in 410 AD, the Anglo-Saxons began arriving in Britain from the area that is now Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands.

- The Anglo-Saxons came into violent conflict with those living in Britain at the time, but they soon ruled over most of Britain.

- In 597 AD, the Anglo-Saxons converted from polytheism to Christianity, after the Pope sent a monk called Augustine to Britain. Over the next century churches and monasteries were built as many Anglo-Saxons converted to Christianity.

- The Vikings invaded a monastery at Lindisfarne in 793 AD and continued to invade the British coastline for around seventy years.

- In 865 AD, the Great Viking Army from Denmark invaded England, conquering York and the kingdom of Mercia, before being defeated by Anglo-Saxon King Alfred in battle. The two sides made terms that split England in half, with King Alfred in control of the east of the country and the Vikings in control of the west.

- In 927 AD, the Vikings were defeated by the Anglo-Saxon King Athelstan. He became the first king of a united England and the crown passed down through generations of Anglo-Saxons.

- In 1066 AD, the Anglo-Saxon King Edward the Confessor died without leaving an heir to the throne. This led to the Battle of Hastings, which was won by William, Duke of Normandy (also known as "William the Conqueror"). This marked the end of Anglo-Saxon Britain.

