

The Struggle for Power

The Anglo-Saxons had settled in England for hundreds of years before the Vikings arrived. They lived in farming communities, followed Christianity, and created beautiful art and jewellery. Life was mostly peaceful.

In AD 793, Viking warriors attacked the monastery at Lindisfarne, off the coast of north-east England. This shocking raid marked the beginning of a long struggle between the two peoples. The Vikings came from Scandinavia — countries we now call Norway, Denmark, and Sweden. They were expert sailors and fierce fighters.

At first, the Vikings raided coastal towns and monasteries, stealing gold, silver, and valuables. Later, they began settling in parts of England, especially in the north and east, in an area that became known as the Danelaw.

King Alfred of Wessex was the most famous Anglo-Saxon leader who stood up to the Vikings. He defeated them in battle and made a peace agreement that divided England between Anglo-Saxon and Viking rule. Over time, the two cultures mixed, and many Viking words even entered the English language.

Questions

1. How did the Anglo-Saxons live before the Vikings arrived?
2. In what year did Vikings attack Lindisfarne?
3. Where is Lindisfarne?
4. Which countries did the Vikings come from?
5. What did the Vikings steal during their early raids?
6. What was the Danelaw?
7. Who was the most famous Anglo-Saxon king to fight the Vikings?
8. What did King Alfred's peace agreement do?
9. What is one way the Vikings influenced England after the two groups mixed?
10. Why do you think monasteries were popular targets for Viking raids?



Text B Quiz



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