

Year 4 Summer Topic – Anglo Saxons Vs Vikings

Our topic for the summer term focuses on the life, times and conflict between the Anglo Saxons and the Vikings. The activities listed below are some suggestions of how you can explore and discover this rich period of British history. You may wish to spend several in depth days or weeks on one or two activities and gradually build up your research. Think carefully about the best way to present your research. You may wish to use drawings or paintings, a video, PowerPoint, letters, a diary entry, annotated diagrams or a cartoon strip. Be as creative as you like! At the bottom of this page you will find a list of excellent websites full of fantastic resources and further ideas.

<p>Create your own illustrated timeline to show what you think the key events of this time period were. You may want to conduct your own research. Use the following link to help you:</p> <p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/timeline/vikinganglosaxons_timeline_noflash.shtml</p>	<p>Gods and Goddesses were very important to the Vikings. Use the following resources to find out more about them.</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clip/s/zyy9wxs</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/english-ks2-viking-sagas/zvrmy9q</p> <p>You may also wish to do some further research yourself. Compare the Viking Gods and Goddesses with the Greek's. Can you spot any similarities or differences?</p>	<p>Pretend you are a Scandinavian travel agent working during the times of the Vikings and Anglo Saxons.</p> <p>Create a travel brochure or leaflet to encourage Vikings to visit (or invade!) Britain. You may wish to think about the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather • Farming • Culture • Raiding opportunities 	<p>Create or annotate a map to show the journeys that the Vikings took from Scandinavia to invade Britain. Think about what you can use to clearly display information such as different colours, fonts and labelling.</p>	<p>Did you know that the Anglo Saxons and Vikings used glue? And that it was made from milk? No?!</p> <p>Why not have a go at creating some historical glue and testing its effectiveness. You could make a table or chart to record the things it can and can't stick together! Use the link below to help you!</p> <p>https://www.science-sparks.com/make-glue-from-milk/</p>
<p>Compare the differences between living in England and Scandinavia during the time of the Anglo Saxons and the Vikings. Then look at the difference between how we live today and how Scandinavian people live today. Are there any similarities or differences between the two time periods?</p> <p>Which style of living do you prefer and why?</p>	<p>Dress up as a Viking or an Anglo Saxon! Take photos of yourself in action performing a particular role. Think about and research what you might wear or the tools you might use. For example, a hunter or a warrior. You might even want to make your own weapons or tools from cardboard or use something you already have to hand at home. Get creative!</p> <p>https://www.jorvikvikingcentre.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Viking-mask-printout.pdf</p>	<p>Viking and Anglo Saxon warriors trained a lot for battle. Their training involved getting used to fighting when wearing chainmail armour and other protective equipment. Chainmail armour is like the skeleton of some animals. Which animals have their skeleton outside their bodies? Not all animals have a bony skeleton. Can we find out what other types of skeleton some animals have? Your skeleton is also like armour but protects organs inside your body. Which parts of your skeleton protect organs in your body? Make a list of animals and other creatures you find around your home, garden and surrounding area.</p>	<p>Very few Anglo Saxons could read or write. Stories were often told to them by friends, family or passing storytellers. People would gather around a great fire and listen to stories, poetry and songs while they ate. Anglo Saxons loved to hear tales about brave warriors and epic adventures. One such story is the tale of Beowulf, a heroic warrior, who battled the fearsome monster Grendel.</p> <p>Have a look at this summary of Beowulf:</p> <p>https://kids.kiddle.co/Beowulf</p> <p>Then, choose a part of the try to retell it as a spoken story, poem or song. Stories told this way were usually added to by the storyteller to make it more exciting. So be as creative as you like!</p>	<p>Vikings knew what the best materials were for making different things: boats were made of wood because wood floats; swords were made of iron because it is hard and can be sharpened; clothes were made of wool because it is warm. Can you make a table of everyday items used in Viking times and find out what they were made of? Can you compare and test (if possible) the materials used to make things in Viking times with what those things are made of today?</p>

<p>It is harder to grow crops in Scandinavia where Vikings come from because it is colder there. One of the reasons the Vikings came to Britain is because it is easier to grow food here. Can we find out where common food plants that we eat today are grown (eg lemons, plums, barley, potatoes)? Can you make a table showing whether plants can grow in colder places like Norway or only in hotter places like the Mediterranean? What other things and conditions do plants need to grow?</p>	<p>If Vikings did ever write things down, they would use runes! Follow the link below to find out how to write your own messages using runes. https://www.jorvikvikingcentre.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Runes-in-the-Viking-Age.pdf</p> <p>You could write a secret message for someone to decode, design a name plate for yourself or even have a go at writing a short story!</p>	<p>Explore the Sutton Hoo gallery at the British museum using the link below: https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/galleries/sutton-hoo-and-europe</p> <p>Look around until you find a few objects that catch your eye. Have a go at recreating these objects using any medium you like. You may want to paint, draw, collage or use a computer programme. Look carefully at the patterns. Many objects contain images of animals, can you spot them?</p>	<p>Vikings travelled long distances by sea but were not scared of falling off the edge of the Earth, even though they did not know the Earth was spherical. They also thought the sun and moon were horse-drawn chariots that followed each other through the sky around the Earth. The Vikings thought that the lands of the Earth were surrounded by a huge sea. How much of the Earth is land and sea? Were the Vikings correct? We now know that the Earth, sun and moon are different sizes. Can you make models of the sun, earth and moon?</p>	<p>Alfred the Great is considered to be one of England's greatest ever kings. But was he really that great? You are the head of English Heritage and have been asked to cast the final vote on whether Alfred should keep his title of 'great' or if it should be removed. Follow the link to find out more about Alfred and then create an argument for whether you think he was great or not. Consider both sides of the argument in your answer in order to give a balanced opinion. https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxsbcdm/articles/z9tdq6f</p>
---	--	---	---	--

Some Useful Resources

<https://www.jorvikvikingcentre.co.uk/discover-from-home/> - Jorvik Centre's amazing collection of videos, printable activities, audio files and much, much more!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxsbcdm> - BBC Bitesize Anglo Saxons

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztyr9j6> - BBC Bitesize Vikings

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/galleries/sutton-hoo-and-europe> - Explore the gallery of the British Museum and peer into the past!

https://artsandculture.google.com/streetview/british-museum/AwEp68JO4NEckQ?sv_h=29.327916876487286&sv_p=0.501689350755754&sv_pid=8lnoW2svsyx7fttv0k6Vvg&sv_lid=3582009757710443819&sv_lng=-0.1261070443603955&sv_lat=51.51912226587073&sv_z=0.6911292499459274 – Take a virtual tour of the Sutton Hoo gallery at the British Museum using Street View!