

VIKING RAIDS



RAIDS

- The first raid was in AD793 near the English border in a monastery.
- Monks recorded all of the Viking attacks.
- Raids started small and unorganised, soon thousands of Vikings left their homelands to raid other countries.

Reasons the Vikings invaded Britain...

The Vikings travelled thousands of miles across the sea from their homeland of Scandinavia where they were farmers, fishermen, seafarers and traders.

Better land

Most Vikings were simply searching for better land for their farms.

Their land was not very good for growing crops or rearing animals:

- Norway was very hilly,
- Sweden was covered in forests, and
- Denmark had a lot of sandy soil.

Reasons the Vikings invaded Britain...

More Land

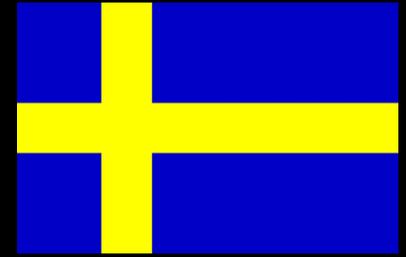
Some historians believe the Vikings left their homes because of over crowding. There was not enough good land for everyone to share.

In a Viking family only the eldest son inherited the family farm so younger brothers had to make their living elsewhere.

Treasures

The Vikings searched for treasures to make them rich. Britain was particularly a good place to raid, as there was much to steal. The Vikings were attracted by the wealth of the Monasteries and the easy treasure to be found within

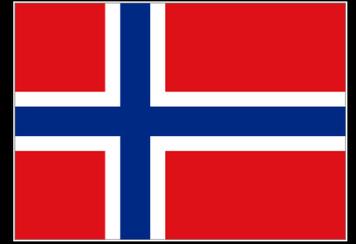
SWEDISH VIKINGS



- Looked east for trade
- They used river routes to go to other countries
- They traded in Istanbul and even Baghdad



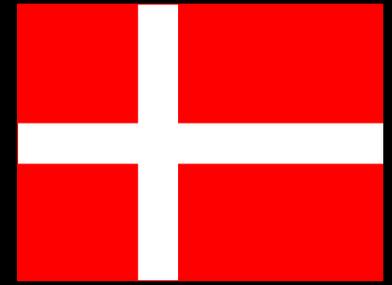
NORWEGIAN VIKINGS



- Wanted more land
- Travelled westward settling in Scotland, Ireland, Iceland and even Greenland



DANISH VIKINGS



- The Danes were interested in Ireland, Wales and especially the east of England



Why did they travel to other countries?

- Jewels
- Silks
- Furs
- Silver
- Slaves
- Spices
- Food and drink
- Gold





VIKING SAGAS



- Saga means story, this is an extract from a Viking's Saga
- ***When Thorald was about twenty years old he made up his mind to go on a Viking expedition, so his father gave him a longship. Evind and Obir joined him with another longship and a good number of men, and they spent the summer plundering. There was plenty of loot so each man got a good share. That's how things were for a number of years - every summer they'd go on Viking expeditions and every winter they would stay at home with their families and parents. Thorold brought his parents a lot of valuable things.***

WHAT THE MONKS THOUGHT



- This is what a French monk wrote about Viking raids in France:
- ***The endless flood of Vikings is on the increase. Everywhere, Christ's people are the victims of massacre, burning and theft. The Vikings destroy everything. Towns are emptied and evil triumphs! Monks, townspeople and everyone else have been killed or taken prisoner. Monasteries along the river Seine have been destroyed. The Vikings have left the remaining people in a state of terror.***

- Along the margins of another manuscript are these words. They were probably written by an Irish monk.
- ***Rough is the wind tonight
Tossing the sea's white hair.
I need not dread the fierce Viking
Crossing the Irish Sea.***



Better land



Treasures

Why did the Vikings invade Britain?



Overcrowding
in homes



Britain was a good place
to raid- monasteries.