

# 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

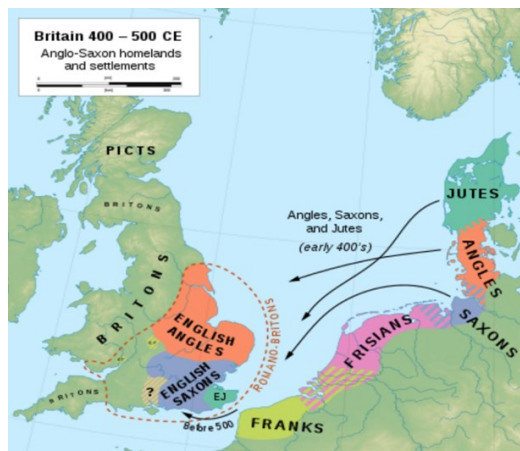
### Key Unit Vocabulary

**Convert** - to change from one 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

- Many people in Roman Britain had been Christians, but the Anglo-Saxons that arrived were polytheists.
- The Anglo-Saxon gods are the root of many of our days of the week.
- In 597, the Pope sent Augustine to convert King Aethelbert to Christianity; Augustine became the first Archbishop of Canterbury. Over the next century churches and monasteries were built as many Anglo-Saxons converted to Christianity.
- The Vikings invaded the monastery at Lindisfarne in 793 and continued to invade the British coastline for around seventy years.
- In 865, the Great Viking Army from Denmark invaded England and captured York and made it their kingdom; the Vikings then conquered Mercia before being defeated by Alfred in battle.
- The two sides made terms that split England in half, with Alfred in control of the East and the Danish Vikings in control of the west.
- Twenty years after Alfred the Great's death, Constantine II united forces in the north and began taking land from the Vikings in Northumbria. Meanwhile, Athelstan attacked the Vikings in 927 and defeated them becoming the first king of a united England.



*The Lindisfarne Monastery today.*

