

# History: Scots, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings

## Overview of unit

This unit takes the children on a journey back in time as they find out about life in Britain during the time of the Anglo-Saxons and Scots and then they find out about the Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the kingdom of England and how England became a unified country. The children will explore where the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings came from, how they fought for territory and power, and how their fighting ultimately led to the kingdom of England we know today. Along the way, they will also find out what life was like for everyday people living in Anglo-Saxon and Viking Britain, exploring things such as Viking runes and Anglo-Saxon stories like Beowulf.

## Key Questions

- Explain how the Anglo-Saxons came to Britain?
- Give an overview of what life was like in the 8th century before the Viking invasions?
- Recognise and describe the different perspectives of the Viking invasions?
- Describe how the Vikings gained control of the northeast of England?
- Suggest reasons why he was dubbed 'Great'?
- Identify similarities and differences between Viking and Anglo-Saxon life?
- Do you know what happened in 1016?
- Describe the main events surrounding the Norman conquest?
- Do children know that the Battle of Hastings ended the era of Anglo-Saxon and Viking rule in Britain?

Other questions to consider throughout the unit:

- Where are English people from?
- Who was the first king of England?
- Was England always a Christian country?

## Key Vocabulary

|                     |   |                   |   |
|---------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| <b>invasion</b>     | An unwelcome intrusion of people into a country/place   | <b>runes</b>      | a letter of an ancient Germanic alphabet                            |
| <b>empire</b>       | an extensive group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch  | <b>Beowulf</b>    | an Old English epic poem in the tradition of Germanic heroic legend |
| <b>unified</b>      | make or become united, uniform, or whole.   | <b>settlement</b> | a place where people, usually peacefully, establish a community.    |
| <b>civilisation</b> | the process by which a place reaches an advanced stage of social and cultural development and organisation.           | <b>prosperous</b> | successful in material terms; flourishing financially.              |
| <b>Danegeld</b>     | a tax in Anglo-Saxon England during the reign of King Ethelred to raise funds for protection against Danish invaders. | <b>chieftains</b> | who were often land owners and leaders in battle                    |
| <b>Danelaw</b>      | the law in force in the part of England held by the Danes before the Norman Conquest                                  |                   |   |

## Key Knowledge and Understanding: What will we be learning about in this unit / topic?

To explore what Britain was like before the first Viking invasions.  
 To find out about the Viking invasions of Britain.  
 To find out about the Viking settlement of Britain and how this affected the Anglo-Saxons.  
 To find out why King Alfred was dubbed 'Alfred the Great'.  
 To explore what life was like for Vikings living in Britain.  
 To find out how and when England became a unified country.  
 To find out about the end of the Anglo-Saxon and Viking era in Britain.

## Timeline

