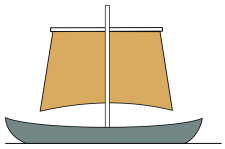
Name & Surname: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

VIKING RAIDS AND INVASION

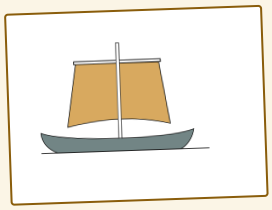
From quick raids to struggle for England



About 30 minutes Level ★★★☆☆

VIKINGS FROM THE NORTH

Vikings were **Norsemen** from Scandinavia. They sailed in fast **longships** with sails and oars.

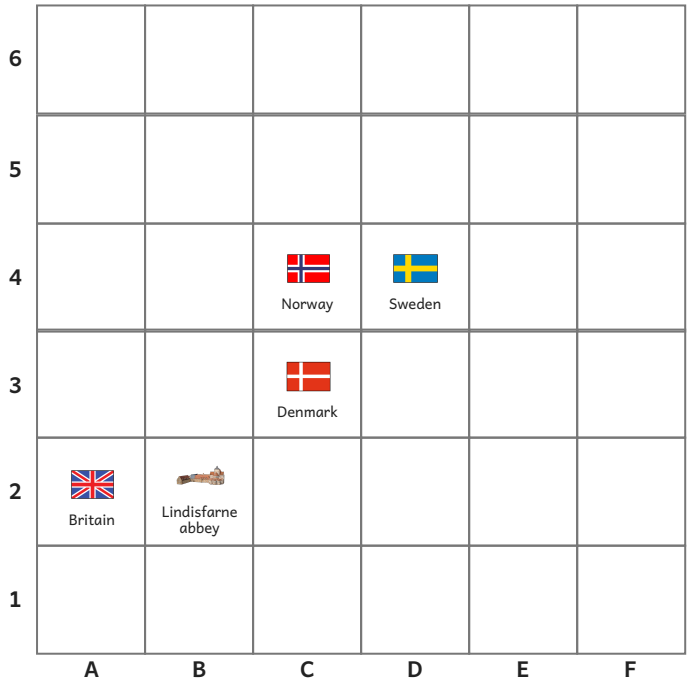


- **Scandinavia** means the lands we now call Norway, Sweden and Denmark.
- Early **raids** from the 790s to the 850s were short summer trips to steal treasure and take slaves.
- Three ships reached Weymouth Bay in 789, then raiders hit Lindisfarne **abbey** in 793.
- Later large groups stayed to take **land**. That staying is called invasion.
- King Aethelred paid **Danegeld** silver, 3300kg worth over £1 million today, but raids went on.

TASK A

/5

Find each place on the sea map and write its grid square.



1. Where is the **Norway**? _____
2. Where is the **Denmark**? _____
3. Where is the **Sweden**? _____
4. Where is the **Britain**? _____
5. Where is the **Lindisfarne abbey**? _____

DID YOU KNOW?

Vikings planted crops in **spring**, raided in summer and hurried home for **harvest**.

CHALLENGE TIME!

Can you point to Norway, Sweden and Denmark from memory? Tell a **partner** without looking.

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LINDISFARNE RAID 793

Ask good questions about the famous abbey raid.

TASK B

/6

Answer the six questions about the Lindisfarne raid.

Who?
Who attacked and who was attacked?

What?
What did raiders steal?

Where?
Where was the abbey?

Draw it

the Lindisfarne raid in 793

When?
When did the raid happen?

Why?
Why was the abbey an easy target?

How?
How did Vikings travel there?

KEY WORDS

Scandinavia: lands of Norway, Sweden and Denmark

raid: short sudden attack to steal then leave

Danegeld: silver paid to make Vikings leave

longship: long fast boat with sail and oars

invasion: arrival to stay and take land

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RAID TO INVASION

Sort clues to explain why raids grew and stayed.

TASK C

/3

Sort the clues to explain why short raids became invasion.

Why did quick Viking raids grow into invasion and struggle for England?

Cut out the cards.

Longships with sail and oars could sail far and fast.	Monasteries and towns held rich treasure that was easy to carry.	At home much farmland was poor with little good land.
Raiders planted in spring and sailed in summer before harvest.	The sea near Scandinavia is often cold and grey in winter.	Later large groups stayed to take fields and build homes.
Danegeld was paid many times but raids went on.	King Aethelred paid 3300kg of silver as Danegeld to make raiders leave.	Most Vikings were farmers who also fished and traded.
England was divided into warring kingdoms in disarray.		

Your answer, using the clues:

.....

.....

.....

DID YOU KNOW?

Aethelred paid over **£1 million** in silver today, yet Vikings **returned** many times.

CHALLENGE TIME!

Can you think of two other reasons a farmer might sail away? Tell a **partner**.

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RAID OR STAY?

Build sentences that show the difference clearly.

TASK D

/3

Build three correct sentences using one **box** from each column.

Short raids	took	treasure then left
An invasion	stayed to take	control of land
Danegeld	was	silver paid to leave
		your own idea

Write three sentences

Short raids took treasure then left.

TASK E

/2

Read the lookout story and answer using **evidence**.

The lookout on the **cliff** sees three longships. It is summer after planting. The ships beach quickly. A small crew runs to the **abbey**, grabs gold crosses and takes people. By evening the ships leave.

1. **Was this a quick raid or a staying invasion? Why?**
   It was a...

2. **Why would paying silver not stop more ships?**
   Paying would fail because...

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CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Score points and talk through the struggle.

TASK F

/11

Answer six quick questions to score points.

1 point
Which three lands make **Scandinavia**?

1 point
What is a **longship**?

2 points
What did early raiders **steal**?

2 points
When was **Lindisfarne** attacked?

2 points
What was **Danegeld**?

3 points
How is invasion different from a **raid**?

My score: _____ out of 11 · Target: 7

TASK G

Discuss these questions with a partner. No writing.

- **Why did paying silver fail to stop the struggle for England?**
- **Would you rather be a lookout or a farmer-raider? Why?**

HOW DID I DO?

Circle a face for each line.

I can show where Vikings sailed from.	☹	😐	☺
I can explain a raid and an invasion.	☹	😐	☺
I can order raids to Danegeld.	☹	😐	☺

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Answer sheet: Viking Raids and Invasion

Task A

1. Norway: C4
2. Denmark: C3
3. Sweden: D4
4. Britain: A2
5. Lindisfarne abbey: B2

Task B

Who: Viking raiders attacked monks.
What: Treasure and people as slaves.
Where: Lindisfarne island off north-east England.
When: 8 June 793.
Why: It held rich treasure and had weak defence.
How: Across the sea in longships.

Task C

Rich targets, poor farms, fast ships and weak kingdoms drew Vikings; paying silver failed, so larger groups stayed to take land.
Red herring: The sea near Scandinavia is often cold and grey in winter.

Task D

Answers will vary, e.g. Short raids took treasure then left. An invasion stayed to take control of land. Danegeld was silver paid to leave.

Task E

1. A quick raid, as the crew stole treasure and left fast.
2. It cost much silver and raiders returned, so it did not stop them.

Task F

1. Norway, Sweden and Denmark
2. Long fast boat with sail and oars
3. Treasure and slaves
4. 8 June 793
5. Silver paid to make Vikings leave
6. Raid leaves fast; invasion stays to take land

Task G

Answers will vary.

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