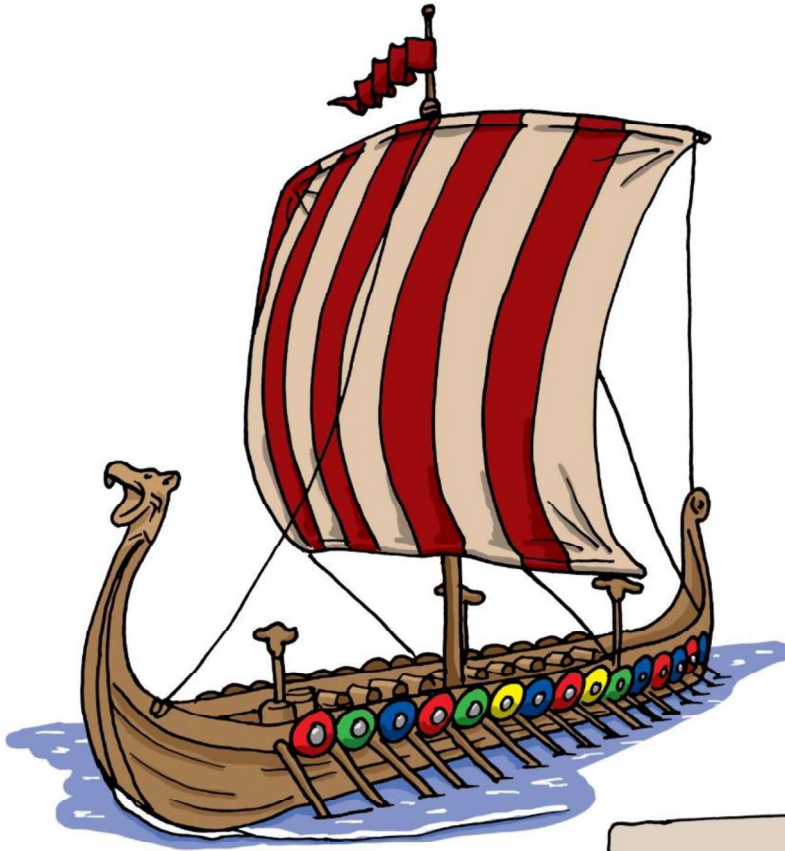


Who Were The Vikings and Where Did They Come From?

The Vikings came from countries that we now call Norway, Sweden and Denmark. This area is called **Scandinavia**. These were countries that were **surrounded** by sea and covered in forests. The Vikings lived near the coast and were farmers, fishermen and **craftsmen**.

The Vikings were '**Norsemen**'. Norsemen means men of the north.

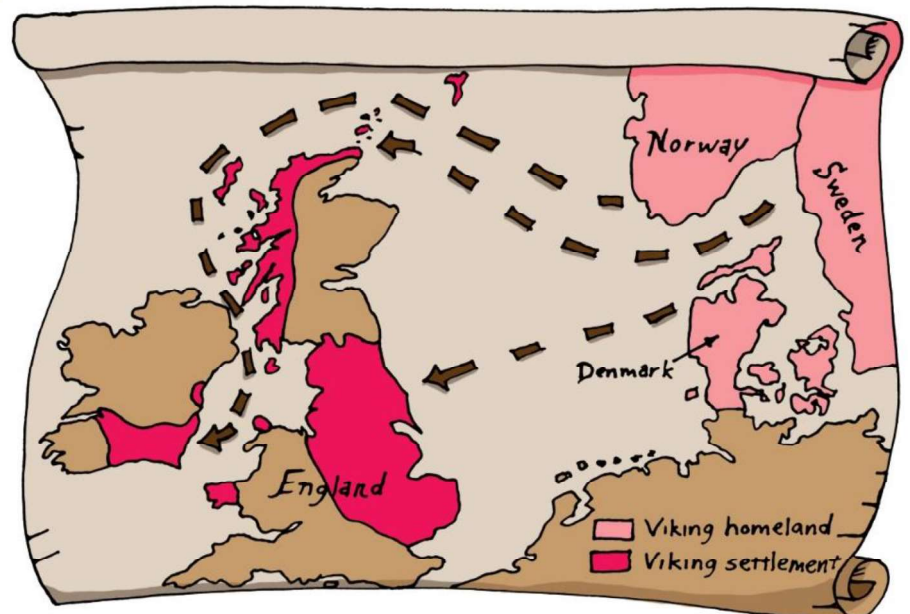


They Travelled By Ship

Vikings wanted **fame** and **wealth**. They got both of these things by **raiding** other lands. The Vikings were **exploring** and raiding for about 300 hundred years. They travelled across the seas in ships called **longships**. They raided for money, treasure and **slaves**. They also went looking for new places to **settle**.

Settlements

The Vikings settled in the places that they had **conquered**. When they had settled, they farmed and fished and **traded** with local people.



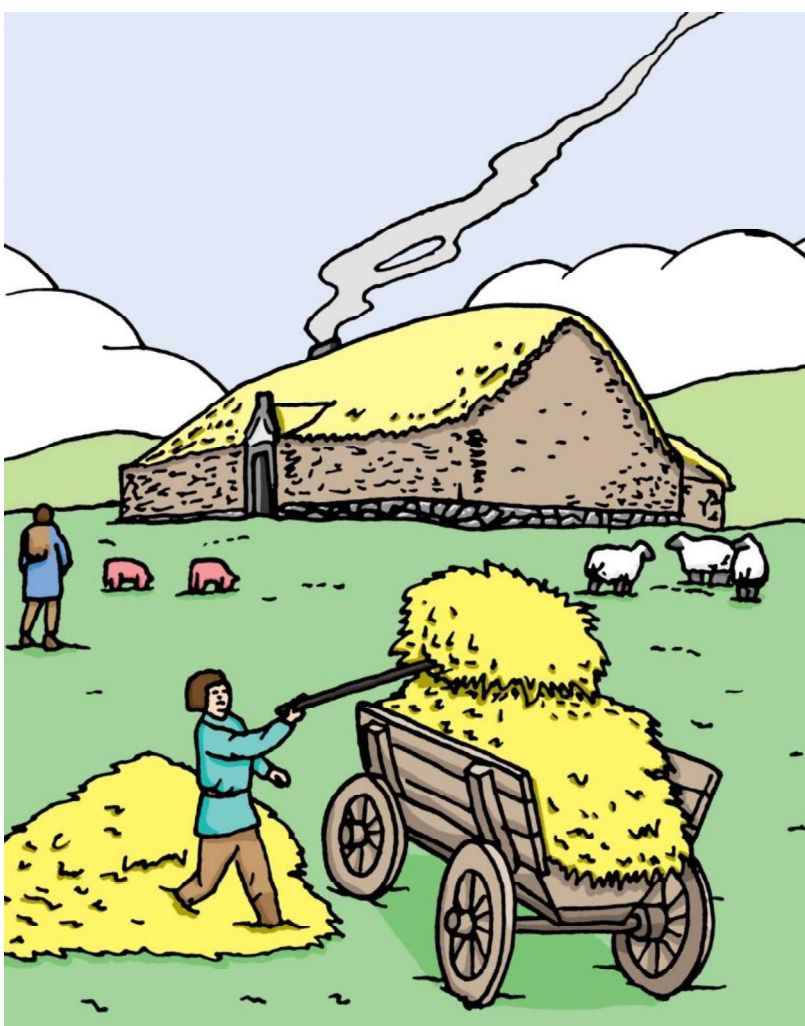
This map shows the different places the Vikings travelled to.

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Farming and Fighting

If a Viking wanted to raid, they needed to own a ship. This meant that they would need some money. Most Vikings **owned** their own land, with a wife who could run their farm while they were away, and enough slaves to keep the farm going.

Most of the men on a Viking ship were young. They wanted to make some money so that they could become famous one day.



Vikings Crafts

Viking **smiths** made tools, weapons, plates and jewellery. They used iron, lead, gold and silver. They also made silver coins, which were used for trading.

How Do We Know About the Vikings?

We have learnt lots of information about the Vikings from **graves**, **burial ships**, and **hoards** of buried treasure. **Historians** also wrote about their **conquests**. Viking **myths** have also been passed on by storytellers.



By Lisa Wheatley

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Who Were the Vikings and Where Did They Come From? – 2a – Text

Would you have liked to have been a Viking? Explain why? (AF3)

What would it have been like to travel on a Viking longship? (AF3)

Do you think that Vikings preferred farming or raiding? Why? (AF3)

Why have some words been written in purple? (AF4)

Can you think of any reasons why the Vikings might have wanted to settle in Britain? (AF3)
