



Vikings

Year 5 - Spring 1



Raid		A rapid, surprise attack on an enemy.
Raider		A person who attacks an enemy in their territory.
Monk		A member of a religious community of men typically living under vows.
Monastery		A building where people worship and devote time to God.
Looted		Steal goods from a place.
Abbey		The building or buildings lived in by nuns or monks.
Settle		Set up home in a new land after it has been invaded.
Invader		To enter and occupy land.
Monarch		A form of government with a monarch at the head.
Runes		Viking alphabet
Longhouses		A long, narrow, single-room building built by people.



The term 'Viking' comes from the Old Norse word 'Vikings', meaning a pirate or raider from any area. In the 10th/11th century, it came to mean a Scandinavian sea raider.

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle was also written long after the events took place. Alfred the Great asked it to be recorded nearly a hundred years later in 890 AD, so we are unsure how much of the original material would have been available to the authors.



Viking Long Boat

Many historians agree that the Vikings left due to overpopulation in their homelands. That means that in their own countries there were too many people, and there was not enough land suitable for farming and supporting the population.