



Year Group: Year 3 and 4

Length: 29 mins

Starting Positions: Lie down in your own space on the floor

Learning Intention:

To know about...

- Life in Viking Denmark: the Assembly, reasons for leaving Scandinavia
- Sailing on longships
- Raids on monasteries and the invasion of England
- Viking attacks on Wessex and resistance by Alfred the Great
- The relationship between Vikings and Anglo-Saxons

Synopsis:

- In Denmark, the crops on your farm are dying. Your sister wants to sail to a new life in England.
- You attend an Assembly and try to vote on whether to settle in England or join an attack on King Alfred.
- You follow your sister to England on a Viking longship.
- You survive a storm and spot a Christian monastery on the coast.
- When the ship's captain raids the monastery, you escape to find your sister.
- An Anglo-Saxon girl helps you hide in a cart journeying into Wessex.
- The ship's captain re-captures you and makes you march towards battle.
- During an attack on King Alfred's fortress, you free Viking prisoners and find the King's crown.
- When the King counter-attacks, you use his crown as a ploy to stop the fighting and free your sister.
- You and your sister journey to the Viking-conquered lands (Danelaw) and find a place to settle.

Characters:

- **Freyja** – A Young Viking woman. Viking women had greater freedom than other women of the time
- **Grim** – A Viking chieftain and longship captain. Longships were built for raiding and attacking
- **King Alfred** – The Anglo-Saxon King of Wessex. Alfred faced many Viking attempts to conquer Wessex
- **Anglo-Saxon Girl** – a young girl about your age

Locations:

- **Denmark** – Denmark and other parts of Scandinavia formed the Viking Norse Lands
- **Assembly** – A gathering of Viking men to discuss and vote on disputes and important matters
- **The North Sea** – Viking longships crossed the North Sea to raid, invade and settle parts of Britain
- **Monastery** – The first Christian monastery to be raided by the Vikings was Lindisfarne in AD793
- **Battlefield** – Vikings attacked King Alfred whilst he celebrated Christmas at his stronghold

Glossary:

- **Norse Lands** – The Scandinavian lands of Denmark, Sweden and Norway
- **Runes** – Letters of the Viking alphabet that were sometimes also used for whole words
- **Wessex** – A Kingdom in southern England that was ruled by King Alfred
- **Monastery** – Buildings where Christian monks lived that often held great treasures
- **Valhalla** – A great hall in the Viking heaven where warriors who die in battle go to feast
- **Danelaw** – Lands in the East and North of England occupied by Vikings and ruled by Danish law

Discussion:

Story & Factual

- What are the names of the other two Scandinavian countries the Vikings came from?
- Viking sailors used natural things like the sun to navigate. How did they do this?
- Vikings also used ships for trade. What kinds of goods did they trade? How far did they travel?
- The Vikings worshipped many gods. Can you name some of them?
- Many Vikings who settled in England became Christians. Why do you think they did this?
- Alfred is known as 'King Alfred the Great'. Why do people think of him in this way?

PSHE & Philosophical

- What kind of problems might Vikings have voted on? Would some be similar to our problems today?
- In the UK today, you can vote at age 18. Should children be able to vote at a younger age?
- There was no Viking law against attacking or raiding other countries. What do you think about this?
- Today, some migrants make dangerous sea crossings to Europe. Why do they leave their countries?
- Vikings have a reputation for being greedy and vicious. Do you think they were all like this?

Resources:

You'll find these follow up resources on your shared drive:

- **Literacy Resources** – Reading Comprehension/Text Analysis, 3x SPAG exercises, Poem/Short writing exercise, Formal Prose, Creative Writing, Spelling Test
- **Photo Storyboard** – order the images from the story (or use them for other things – e.g. writing)
- **Quick Quiz** – re-cap key facts
- **Or try some recount, report or creative writing ideas of your own!**