

### At this time ...

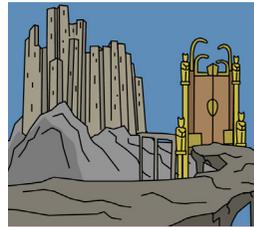
The Vikings found it easy to steal from monasteries and convents. The riches they took back home encouraged further raids and this became a serious problem for the Anglo-Saxon kings. Not every British kingdom fought back – some tried to pay the Vikings to go away and some even teamed up with the Vikings against other kingdoms.



### FACTS

**It was easy for the Vikings to steal from monks and nuns in England.**

Monasteries and convents had many gifts from the rich – valuable candlesticks, goblets and bowls, made from silver and gold.



Vikings believed that if you died fighting bravely, you went to a warrior heaven, called Valhalla.



*I am a young monk called Aelfwyn. For many years we have lived peacefully, worshipping God, studying, and helping the sick. Now we live in fear of warriors from Viking lands. They take our gold and silver, and if we resist them they kill us.*



*I'm Ragnar. My father has brought me on my first raid. At first I felt a bit nervous, but this is the Viking way. We are fearless and proud – in battle, we find glory!*



## A NEW WARRIOR

It was only after Ragnar had the gold cross in his hand that he realised what he'd done. He looked at it; its fine engraving was splashed and bloody. Then he looked at the small crumpled figure at his feet. It was a young monk, no older than he was. Ragnar's stomach rose into his throat, and he vomited behind a scrubby juniper bush.

Ragnar had looked forward to the raid. His father had discussed it with friends all through the long winter, planning how they'd sail across the seas. 'Thor will bless our journey,'

he reassured his friends. 'He'll calm the seas and give us strength in battle. The monks aren't warriors – they do nothing but tend sheep, and sing songs to their strange God in that stone hall of theirs. There's rich gold and silver treasure there for the taking, not to mention the good meat from their sheep.'

Ragnar had been desperate to join in – to be seen as a man, not a boy. He had begged and pleaded, and eventually his father had agreed. Just as his father had promised, they'd had a good journey with steady winds. This monk was Ragnar's first kill – and it had shocked him. But now he was a warrior, and his family could be proud of him. Ragnar lifted his sword and roared.



We are here!





Read 'A New Warrior' and the facts; then try these tasks:

HISTORY KEY STAGE 2

The Vikings Britain in Viking Times

2b

Exploring and Raiding Viking raids on Britain

Find the answers to these questions:

Why did Ragnar want to be a warrior? .....

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Why were Vikings unafraid of death?

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Why did monasteries have gold and silver? .....

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Do you think paying Vikings to go away was a good idea?

Explain your answer:

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Explain why the Vikings attacked monasteries:

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List two ways the Vikings hoped Thor would help them:

- 1 .....
- 2 .....

Something to talk about!

*What could the monks do about their problem with the Vikings?*



Draw a Viking warrior ready to fight, or draw a monk collecting herbs for medicine.

