

At this time ...

A large Viking army landed in East Anglia, determined to make England their own. They headed north, conquering large Anglo-Saxon towns and making their capital in a town they called Jorvik (which is now called York). By 871 AD, only the Kingdom of Wessex in the south west was holding out against the Vikings.



FACTS

Vikings were efficient warriors.

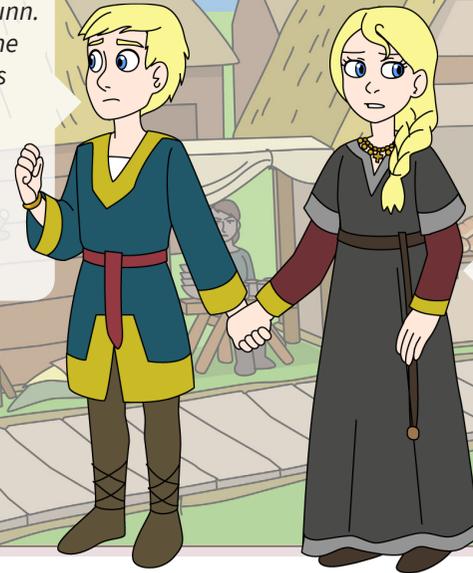
The Anglo-Saxon armies were mainly everyday people – farmers and craftsmen – who were obliged to fight.

The Vikings began to settle in England, mainly in the north and east – the nearest coasts to their Scandinavian homelands.



The Vikings swiftly conquered 6 out of the 7 kingdoms in England. Only Wessex remained Saxon.

Hello, I'm Jorunn. My father is one of the warriors who took this town from the Saxons. The people here have no fighting skills!



I'm Cynric. I'm nervous of the Saxons. Yes, we beat them in battle, but they have been forced from their land and homes. They might fight back.

LOST IN JORVIK

Cynric grasped her brother's hand. She was feeling more and more anxious with each step. They'd lost themselves in Jorvik and were now on the outskirts of town where a tumble of shelters and stalls had sprung in what only a few weeks ago had been a meadow occupied only by cattle.

Jorvik was the new name for the old Saxon settlement of Eoforwick. It was a good base for the Vikings to raid from, and they'd fought hard to make it their own. Many of the original Anglo-Saxon inhabitants had lost their lives in the battle,

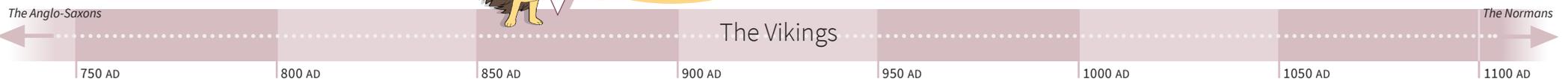
and some of those that remained had been pushed out of their homes. This wasn't a good place to get lost!

Their mother had sent the children out to buy bread. Jorunn and Cynric had thought it would be an easy errand – they hadn't expected to get lost! Now they were scared of the angry glares from the people sheltering in the crude dwellings. 'They hate us,' said Jorunn. 'But they are going to have to get used to us living here.'

'That's brave talk,' Cynric replied, 'but right now we are outnumbered and in danger. I think I see a Viking patrol ahead. They'll look after us. Let's get to them. Quickly!'



We are here!





Read 'Lost in Jorvik' and the facts; then try these tasks:

HISTORY KEY STAGE 2

The Vikings Britain in Viking Times

3b

Invasion The Great Heathen Army

Find the answers to these questions:

Why did the Vikings bring a large army to England?

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Where did they attack first?

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Which English kingdom held out against the Vikings?

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Do you think the Vikings found it easy to defeat the Saxons?

Explain your answer:

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Explain why some Saxons would have moved out of town:

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Explain why the Viking children were fearful:

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Something to talk about!

In war, people are often 'displaced' – forced to leave their homes. What would this be like?



Draw a Viking soldier on guard by the town gates, or draw a Saxon family building a wooden shelter.

