

### At this time ...

King Alfred the Great retreated to an island where he gathered forces. He then fought back against the Vikings, pushing them north and east. This finally led to an agreement that split the rule of England in two – Alfred ruled the Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of Wessex, and ‘the Danelaw’ was ruled by Viking kings.



### FACTS

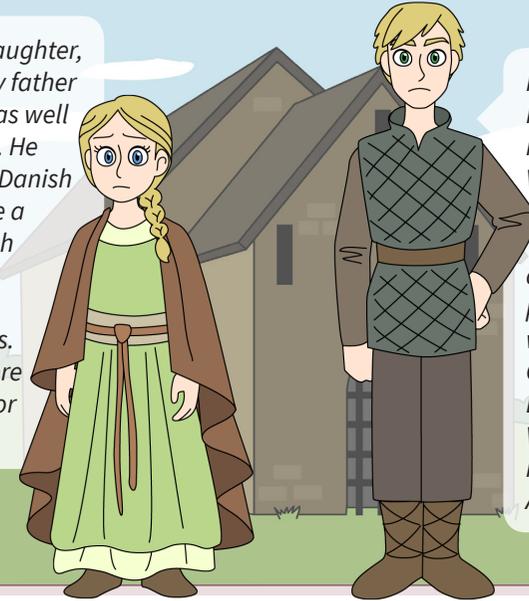
**Alfred was a great warrior but he was also a clever leader who gathered supporters to help him in battle.**



He enlisted the help of the nobles in Wessex and even made friends with more powerful kings in Europe, so that they could help him against the Vikings.

Alfred built fortresses and created a proper army with weapons and supplies. He trained them to fight back.

*I am Alfred's daughter, Aethelfleda. My father is a wise king, as well as a brave one. He has forced the Danish king to become a Christian, which means that he has to give up his violent gods. Now I hope there will be peace for all our people.*



*I am Bjorn, and I am a soldier in Guthrum's Viking army. I am angry that he has agreed to make peace and to worship the Christian God. But at least we Vikings still rule much of Britain. All is not lost.*

## FOLLOWING ALFRED

Aethelfleda watched quietly as King Guthrum – the Danish leader of the Viking army – approached her father, King Alfred of Wessex. Guthrum was a giant of a man. She could scarcely believe that her father and his troops had been able to defend their lands against this huge man and his fierce army; but Alfred had proved himself a great leader and they had outmanoeuvred the Viking forces.

For a long time, all Aethelfleda could remember was war, war and more war. Her family had been driven further and

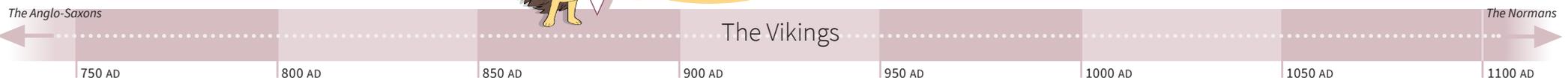
further west, fleeing from the Vikings. But then things changed – her father started winning important victories. His army was better organised and equipped than ever before.

Finally, one morning, her mother had woken her. ‘Your father has won a glorious victory,’ she’d proclaimed, proudly. ‘The Danes are defeated, and will never trouble us again.’

A treaty was signed between the two sides. Guthrum became a Christian, promising to give up his Norse gods. In return, Alfred allowed the Danes to rule their territory in peace. Could two different kings – with such different people – rule lands side by side, she wondered? She hoped so, for all their sakes.



We are here!





Read 'Following Alfred' and the facts; then try these tasks:

HISTORY KEY STAGE 2

The Vikings Britain in Viking Times

4b

Invasion Wessex resistance

Find the answers to these questions:

Which kingdom managed to resist the Vikings? .....

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Why did the Viking leader agree to a treaty?

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What was the Danelaw? .....

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Why do you think Alfred didn't just carry on and drive the Vikings out of England? Explain your answer:

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Explain why Arthur was considered a good leader:

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List two things that happened after the treaty:

1 .....  
2 .....

Something to talk about!  
*What problems might there be if two parts of a country are ruled separately?*



Draw soldiers shooting arrows, a group hiding behind their large round shields, or the two kings signing the treaty.

