

Year 5 History Knowledge Organiser - Britain in the Viking Age 1 (Lady of the Mercians)

Viking camp at Torksey

- To go raiding was to go 'wicing' (vye-king) which is how the men from the North got their name: Vikings.
- In 872, the Vikings built their vast camp on high ground in Torksey.
- Torksey became a Viking city full of traders, craftspeople and families.
- Torksey did not just have an army living there, it was an entire community.
- Several thousand Vikings lived in Torksey.
- Torksey was chosen as it was a great place to trade (on an old Roman canal).
- In Torksey, the Vikings melted down silver and gold objects, and coins they had looted. They made ingots from the melted metal (bars of metal).
- Repton was a holy place to the Christian people of Mercia - this was a target for the Vikings.
- The Vikings invaded Repton and forced King Burgred to abandon his throne and they exiled him.
- By 874, the chronicles tell us, Burgred had left Britain.

Important People

King Burgred	Forced to leave throne and exiled by Vikings.
Aethelred	A young King of Wessex in 865, brother of Alfred the Great.
Alfred the Great	Heir to Aethelred, King of Wessex from 871.
Ealhswith	Alfred the Great's wife (a Mercian noblewoman).
Aethelflaed	Alfred's first daughter.
Aethelred	Lord of Mercians, married Aethelflaed.
Guthrum	King of the Danish Vikings.

Aethelflaed (daughter of King Alfred)

- Aethelflaed married Aethelred of Mercia, Lord of the Mercians.
- She had an alliance with King Alfred.
- She was heavily involved in governing Mercia.
- Aethelflaed and her husband ensured burhs were built to keep their people safe.
- By 902 AD, Aethelflaed had taken sole charge of Mercia as Aethelred was so unwell.
- Aethelflaed worked closely with her brother Edward, King of Wessex.

Viking Raids

- Lindisfarne had a monastery with many monks working in it.
- The Vikings attacked the monks, destroyed the books and sold religious objects.
- In 866, the Great Heathen Army captured York.
- In 867, Northumbria's two rival kings were killed by Vikings.
- In 868, Burgred, King of Mercia paid Vikings to leave.
- In 869, Edmund, King of East Anglia, was defeated in battle, captured and killed.
- East Anglo became a base for raiding lands to the west - including Peterborough!

Reasons for Vikings raids:

- They were traders: wanted fine objects to sell.
- They needed money and treasure to reward their followers and keep their support.
- They were Pagans, so Christian objects had no religious meaning to them.



Timeline

793 AD	Viking attack on monastery at Lindisfarne in Northumbria.
837 AD	Vikings carried out many raids on Ireland.
850 AD	For the first time, Vikings spent the winter in Britain on an island.
865 AD	Great Heathen Army arrived in East Anglia.
869/879	Aethelflaed was born (Alfred's daughter).
871 AD	The Vikings defeated Aethelred and Aldred's armies. Aethelred was also killed. Alfred became King of Wessex.
872 AD	The Vikings built their vast camp in Torksey.
873 AD	The Vikings invaded Repton.
876 AD	The Great Heathen Army occupied all of Northumbria.
878 AD	Alfred and his family attacked by Viking army in Chippenham.
887 AD	Aethelflaed marries Aethelred, Lord of the Mercians.
899 AD	King Alfred died. Son, Edward, became king.
911 AD	Aethelflaed became Lady of the Mercians.

Great Heathen Army Journey



Vocabulary

1. Flanks	Side of an animal between body and hip.
2. Furrows	A long, narrow trench in the ground.
3. Chasms	A deep gorge in the earth's surface.
4. Trent	A river in central England.
5. Looted	To steal goods from a place.
6. Ingots	Bars of metal used for trade.
7. Depicts	Portrayed or described in words.
8. Ransacked	Go through stealing things and causing damage.
9. Occupied	Being used by somebody.
10. Burh	A fortified settlement.