

The Viking expansion began in the **AD 790s**, in the eighth century.

The Vikings were also known as **Norsemen**. Norsemen means northern men; the Vikings lived north of people living in England and other parts of Europe.

The Vikings originated in the **Scandinavian** regions of Norway, Denmark, and Sweden.

The Viking people were excellent **sailors, builders, raiders** and **traders**.

Only the **warriors** who went on raids to other lands were actually called Vikings.

YEAR 4 THE VIKING AGE



Anvil



Viking longship

Viking Runes

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Runes were the letters of the Viking alphabet.

Under each rune is the sound that it relates to in English.

The Viking people relied on **farming, fishing** and **trade** for their living.

Viking people worshipped many **gods** and **goddesses**.

Skalds were poets who memorised and retold Viking history through **sagas**.

Viking people were skillful **shipbuilders** and sailors. They built and used ships for different purposes. Viking ships were fast-moving and highly manoeuvrable longships that could sail rivers as well as oceans.

Three types of ships were a cargo ship, or **knarr**; a longship, or **drekar**; and the rowboat, or **faering**.

The **Thing** was an assembly where the Norse made decisions for their community.

Core Vocabulary

ƿjord, *n.* a deep and narrow portion of the sea that stretches inland, with high cliffs on either side

Norse, *n.* people who lived in Scandinavia long ago

plunder, *v.* to take something by force

ferocious, *adj.* Fierce, brutal, or wild

manoeuvre *v.* To move skillfully

sagas, *n.* Long stories that tell of historic and legendary events