Who were the Vikings and why did they invade Britain?

The **Vikings came from all around Scandinavia** (where Norway, [Sweden](https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/sweden) and Denmark are today). They sent armies to Britain about the year 700 AD to take over some of the land, and they lived here until around 1050. Even though the Vikings did not stay in Britain, they made lots of changes – we’ve even kept some of the same names of towns. They had a large settlement around York and the Midlands, and you can see some of the artefacts from Viking settlements today.

1. Where did the Vikings come from?
2. When did they first come to Britain?
3. When did they live here until?
4. What have we kept?

The Vikings were called Norsemen, and they spoke Norse. They travelled over the sea in longships, which are long, narrow wooden boats that could be sailed in both deep and shallow water. The Vikings left their homeland because they were looking for better places to farm than the land that Scandinavia had.

1. What were the Vikings called?
2. How did they travel?
3. Why did the Vikings leave their homeland?

The Vikings first attacked Britain in 787 AD, but didn’t start to invade and live here until 793. In 878, King Alfred the Great defeated the Vikings in battle and made them promise to stay in their own land in England – this was called Danelaw.

1. When did the Vikings first attack Britain?
2. Who defeated the Vikings?
3. What did the Vikings have to promise?