History – LI:

Read the information about The Vikings and write the facts in the correct column on the table.

* The Vikings launched a surprise attack on a monastery called Lindisfarne in AD793. They had come to steal the monastery's treasure.
* 50 years after the attack, a huge force of around 3,000 Vikings arrived on our shores and they wanted to conquer the whole of England.
* The first Viking raid recorded was around AD787. It was the start of a fierce struggle between the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings.
* The Vikings were pagans, not Christians so they did not think twice about raiding a monastery.
* Christian monasteries in Britain were easy targets for the Vikings. The monks had no weapons and the buildings were filled with valuable treasures, like gold, jewels and books.
* Viking warriors fought using long swords and axes
* Some came to fight, but others came peacefully, to settle and they were farmers and kept animals and grew crops.
* They were skilful at crafting, and made beautiful metalwork and wooden carvings.
* Vikings sailed the seas trading goods to buy silver, silks, spices, wine, jewellery, glass and pottery to bring back to their homes.
* They were great explorers too and travelled all over the world. Vikings explored as far away as North America. They even travelled through Russia to trade in the Middle East.
* ‘The Thing’, was an early version of today’s parliament. The Norse people met to discuss new laws and solve arguments. They would argue over who owns your shoes.
* We still use some of their Old Norse language today. Words like ‘egg’, ‘muck’ and ‘dirt’.
* In AD865 an army of Vikings sailed across the North Sea. This time they wanted to conquer land rather than just raid it.
* By AD874, almost all the kingdoms had fallen to the Vikings. All except for Wessex, which was ruled by Alfred the Great.
* There were three main areas where Vikings lived – Northumbria, East Anglia, and the Five Boroughs. Good farmland was scarce in the Vikings' own countries so they settled here for a better life.
* The most important city in the Danelaw was the city of York. Over 10,000 people lived there and it was an important place to trade goods.
* Many towns and cities in Britain that were founded by the Vikings can still be spotted today. Places that end in -by, -thorpe or -ay were almost certainly Viking towns.

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| Positive impacts of Vikings in Britain | Negative impacts of Vikings in Britain |
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