



## History- Anglo Saxons and Vikings

### Year 6 Autumn

Viking	A seafaring Scandinavian warrior who raided and traded across Europe during the Viking Age.
Anglo-Saxons	A group of Germanic tribes who settled in England in the 5th and 6th centuries
Kingdom	A territory or region ruled by a king or queen.
Edward the Confessor	An Anglo-Saxon king of England from 1042 to 1066.
Danelaw	A historical region in England where Danish law and customs were prevalent during the Viking Age.
Raid	A surprise attack or incursion carried out by a military force.
Longship	Scandinavian warship with a long, narrow design and both sails and oars.
Monastery	A building or complex inhabited by a community of monks living under religious vows.
Heathen	A person who does not belong to a widely held religion, especially one that is a minority or non-Christian.
Siege	A military blockade or attack on a fortified place to force its surrender.
Fyrd	The local militia of an Anglo-Saxon shire, in which all freemen had to serve
Normans	The people of Normandy, a region in France, who invaded England in 1066.



- 793 AD: The Vikings raid the monastery of Lindisfarne, marking the beginning of the Viking Age.
- 865 AD: Great Heathen Army, led by the Danish Vikings, begins invading England.
- 878 AD: Anglo-Saxon King Alfred the Great defeats the Vikings and establishes the Danelaw.
- 910 AD: The Anglo-Saxons reconquer Danelaw, pushing the Vikings back.
- 1016 AD: Danish King Canute the Great becomes the King of England, uniting the Anglo-Saxon and Viking lands.
- 1042 AD: Edward the Confessor becomes the King of England.
- 1051 AD: Edward the Confessor's relationship with the powerful Earl of Wessex, Godwin, deteriorates.
- 1066 AD: Edward the Confessor dies, leading to a power struggle and the Norman invasion of England.

### Contenders for the Throne in 1066

#### Harald Hardrada

Hardrada was a Viking and king of Norway. He was also a distant relative of King Cnut, who had previously been a king of England when the Vikings had invaded. Harald Hardrada had the support of Tostig, who was Harold Godwinson's brother.

#### Harold Godwinson

Harold Godwinson was from Wessex, in England. A wealthy nobleman, it is claimed that Edward the Confessor named Godwinson as his successor on his deathbed. His sister, Edith, was married to Edward. Wessex was the largest kingdom in England and his claim would have been well supported by a large proportion of the English population.

#### William the Conqueror

William was a Duke who controlled Normandy in France. William was a distant relative of Edward the Confessor and claimed Edward had promised him the throne in 1051. William also said that Harold Godwinson had sworn an oath that he would help William take the throne after Edward, in return for helping Godwinson when he had been stranded in Normandy in 1064.