





-  People– How did William the Conqueror contribute to the government we know today?
-  Power– Why do we know so little about this period of history?
-  Place in History– What happened in the Middle Ages to provide opportunity for future change?
-  Purpose– How did life change after the Romans left Britain?

Key Figures

Alfred the Great
Cnut
Edward the Elder
Æthelflæd

Links



Year 3 (Summer Term)
EMPIRE– Romans, Georgians ,& Victorians

Key Knowledge Focus

- ⇒ It is worth noting that during this period the country was split into different kingdoms which were all ruled by different ‘Kings’.
- ⇒ These kingdoms were: Mercia, Northumbria, Wessex and East Anglia
- ⇒ Each Kingdom was ruled by a different king. They fought to defend their kingdom or take control of other kingdoms. By AD 878, there was just one kingdom left (Wessex) as the others had been overrun by the Vikings.
- ⇒ 802 Ecgberth became king of Wessex, which became the most powerful of the Saxon kingdoms. 827 The other 6 kings swore an allegiance to Ecgberth and he became the first true king of a united England.
- ⇒ 860s & 870s Viking invasions. All kingdoms except Wessex taken over by Vikings.
- ⇒ King Alfred ‘ The Great’ ruled from 871-899 and after many battles he defeated the Vikings at the Battle of Edington in 878. After the battle the Viking leader Guthrum converted to Christianity. In 886 Alfred took London from the Vikings and fortified it. The same year he signed a treaty with Guthrum.
- ⇒ The treaty partitioned England between Vikings and English. The Viking territory became known as the Danelaw. It comprised the north-west, the north-east and east of England. Here, people would be subject to Danish laws. Alfred became king of the rest.
- ⇒ Alfred aimed to unite all the kingdoms together to great an ‘England’.
- ⇒ Alfred’s eldest daughter, Æthelflæd, would lead the

- fight against the Vikings and lay the foundations for England. After her husband passed away in 911 AD, Æthelflæd took over the governing of the kingdom of Mercia, becoming the Lady of the Mercians. She went on the offensive against the Vikings and over the coming years played a significant role in the conquest of Danelaw.
- ⇒ Following Alfred the Great’s death in 899 his son Edward the Elder became king (899-924)
- ⇒ The son of Alfred the Great, Edward the Elder was an Anglo-Saxon king of England. As ruler of the West Saxons, or Wessex, from 899 to 924, he recaptured a large part of central England that had been taken by Danish invaders.
- ⇒ Edward came to the throne upon his father’s death in October 899. In a battle in 902, his forces killed a rival claimant, Aethelwald (Alfred’s nephew), who had allied with the Danes.
- ⇒ Alfred’s grandson, Athelstan, became the first true King of England. He led an English victory over the Vikings at the Battle of Brunaburh in 937, and his kingdom for the first time included the Danelaw. In 954, Eirik Bloodaxe, the last Viking king of York, was killed and his kingdom was taken over by English earls.
- ⇒ The Vikings were far from done on English soil. They retreated, consolidated and successfully conquered the country in the early 11th century. In 1013, Sweyn Forkbeard became the first Danish King of England. His son, Cnut the Great, held the throne until he died in 1035. The Viking presence in England was finally ended in 1066 when an English army under King Harold defeated the last great Viking king, Harald Hardrada of Norway, at the Battle of Stamford Bridge, near York.
- ⇒ England was to have four Viking kings between 1013 and 1042. The greatest of these was King Cnut, who was king of Denmark as well as of England.

Key Vocabulary

Topic
Viking
Raiding
Invasion
Settlement
Danelaw

Skill
Evidence
Sources
Compare
Consider

