

Vikings

- ② The earliest recorded Scandinavian raiding, piracy, and, later, colonisation took place around the end of the 8th century, marking the beginning of the three hundred year Viking age.
 - Through the use of longships originally invented and used by the norsemen (often referred to as Danes); one example being the Oseberg longship dated to around the early ninth century, that enabled commerce, exploration, and warfare.



Oseberg longship, on display in the Viking Ship Museum in Bygdøy, Norway. Image taken from <https://www.khm.uio.no/english/visit-us/viking-ship-museum/>

- Most early raiding targets were undefended monasteries in areas like Northumberland and Skye islands.
- ② A Northumbrian farm, Lindisfarne, was successfully raided around this time, and again a year later, this time less successful. This less successful raid may be the reason why vikings only raided undefended settlements and monasteries.
- ② In 891 the Vikings mounted a second attempt to conquer the west Saxons after a previous attempt to take over Wessex, which failed due to Alfred the Great's fortifications and building of a fleet that prevented them from gaining footholds in areas not already in their control, later establishing peace with them through the Danelaw with the *Treaty of Alfred and Guthrum*, translated into English by Dorothy Whitelock in *English Historical Documents 500-1042*.
- ② The Viking chief Rollo was granted territory around the Seine in France by the West Frankish king Rouen in the hopes of dissuading further passage of raiders through the Seine in 911, this occupation proving permanent and later forming the basis for the duchy of Normandy.
- ② By the 9th century significant numbers of scandinavians had been converted to christianity, although they had been introduced to it much earlier through raiding and conquering. As early as the eighth century there had been missionary attempts, such as by English monk Willibrord, but he soon gave up and it was another hundred years before missionaries returned. Most conversions happened in western Europe.

All information taken from:

- Helle (2003)
- J King (2003)

- ❑ Sweyn Forkbeard, king of Denmark, began the conquest of England in 1013 and died soon after being acknowledged as king in the same year, resulting in the recalling of the previous, exiled king Æthelred. Sweyn's son, Knut the Great, later returned in 1015 to regain the control of England his father had won. After his death reigned his two sons, and after they too died the English chose Æthelred's surviving son Edward.
- ❑ Believing, after having had several kings on the English throne, they had claim to it; Edward's successor Harold Godwinson, Edward having died childless, successfully repelled the Danish King Harald Hard-Ruler's attempt to take the throne, Harald having been killed at the battle of Stamford Bridge in 1066.
- ❑ Harold Godwinson was killed in battle against William, the duke of Normandy, in the same year. William was crowned king on Christmas day, though it would be a few years before he conquered the whole of England.
- ❑ By 1085 large scale Viking raiding of England ceased, marking the end of the Viking Age.

All information taken from:

- Helle (2003)
- J King (2003)

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