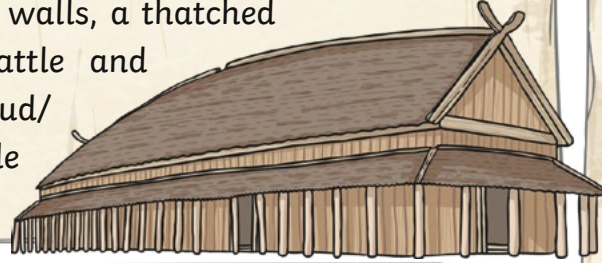


The Vikings and Anglo-Saxons

Read the information about Vikings then answer the true or false questions.

Vikings used whatever natural resources were available to make their houses. Typically, this might have been stone or wood for the walls, a thatched (straw) roof and wattle and daub (stick and mud/dung) on the inside walls to keep in heat.



Most Vikings lived on farms where they grew their own crops, such as oats and wheat.



They also kept farm animals, such as cows, pigs and sheep which provided milk, wool and meat.

The Vikings believed that when the god Thor drove his chariot, pulled by goats through the sky, he created thunder and lightning. Thor also had a special weapon: a hammer.

The Viking's chief god was called Odin and his wife, the goddess of marriage and fertility, was called Frigg.

Bone and antler were commonly used by skilled craftsmen to make objects such as combs and handles for knives.



The pagan Vikings believed in life after death, so people were buried with their possessions when they died so that they could use them in the next life.

Most Vikings wore clothes made from wool or linen. Men wore trousers and tunics which were fastened at the waist with a leather belt. Women wore long-sleeved linen dresses under a woollen apron type dress.



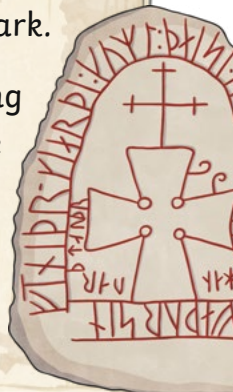
Jewellery makers engraved abstract animal shapes and patterns of interlace (criss-crossing) on brooches and other items, such as the handles of swords.



Vikings wrote using characters from the runic alphabet, also called the Futhark.

The individual letters of the Viking alphabet were called runes. There were 16 runes in total.

Viking runes were only made of straight lines as these were much easier to carve into stone and rock.



The Vikings made dyes from plants to create different colours for their clothes e.g. red cloth was made by using a plant called madder.

N H I G J C Y S F N T F R < X P T B M A T O X Q F N T F R < X P

	True	False
1 Mud and dung was put on the inside of Viking homes to help keep in the heat.		
2 The Vikings believed that animals were very special and so would only ever keep them as pets and would never use them for meat.		
3 Viking clothes were made out of silk.		
4 Jewellery was decorated with shapes and patterns.		
5 Odin was believed to create thunder and lightning by driving his chariot through the sky.		
6 The goddess of marriage and fertility was called Frigg.		
7 Vikings were buried with their possessions when they died.		
8 There were 61 letters, or runes, in the Viking alphabet.		
9 Vikings used natural materials such as plants, to dye their clothes.		
10 Skilled craftsmen would make combs and handles for knives out of bones and antlers.		



Read this information about some of the Anglo-Saxon leaders.



King Alfred the Great

King Alfred became king in AD 871 and reigned until his death in AD 899. He and his followers defeated the Wessex Vikings at the Battle of Edington in AD 878, making him the first Anglo-Saxon king to defeat the Vikings in battle. However, Alfred knew that he wouldn't be able to defeat and take control of all the Viking kingdoms so he set up a deal, known as Danelaw, with the Viking leader. Danelaw gave the Vikings control over northern and eastern England in return for King Alfred keeping control of Wessex, West Mercia and Kent.



Edward the Elder

Edward was King Alfred's eldest son and began ruling when King Alfred died in AD 899. He succeeded to take control of much of England, including north England where the Vikings had strong power. He ruled until AD 924.



Aethelflaed, Lady of the Mercians

Aethelflaed was Alfred the Great's daughter who married Aethelred, Lord of Mercia. Together, they took Wessex from the Vikings. She died suddenly in AD 918 after ruling Mercia and Wessex with her husband since AD 911.



King Athelstan

Athelstan was Edward the Elder's son and he was regarded as the first king of all of Britain after he drove the Vikings back to claim more and more land. He ruled from AD 924-939.

Aelfwynn

Aelfwynn was Lady Aethelflaed's daughter and after her mother died, she took control of Mercia. However, Edward the Elder, Aelfwynn's uncle, quickly removed her from control of Mercia after ruling for only a few months in AD 918.

Using the information you have just read, complete the fact file family tree by including each person's name, when they ruled and a fact about them. Some parts have already been included for you.

