

Social Studies / WebQuest  
The Middle Ages / The Vikings  
May 2010, Mr. Germinara

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

List of websites to be used:

1. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/vikings/>
2. [http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/anglo\\_saxons/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/anglo_saxons/)

Reference Site:

dictionary.com (Used if students need help deciphering/decoding a word or phrase)

### **Directions:**

Make sure you read all of the questions prior to surfing the websites for this assignment. Using information gathered from websites on the **Vikings** and the **Anglo-Saxons**, you will answer the following questions on these medieval people.

### **Helpful Hints:**

Open both websites prior to beginning the worksheet; minimize them so that you will be able to open each site easily as you are completing your assignment. If you are having difficulty finding an answer, consider trying one of these suggestions. 1. Make sure you're using the correct web address to complete the question. 2. Reread the question. 3. Ask a neighbor/peer to help point you in the right direction. 4. Raise your hand and seek the help of the teacher.

### **Information: The Vikings**

The Vikings came from three countries of Scandinavia: Denmark, Norway and Sweden. The name 'Viking' comes from a language called 'Old Norse' and means 'a pirate raid'. People who went off raiding in ships were said to be 'going Viking'.

The Viking age in European history was about AD 700 to 1100. During this period many Vikings left Scandinavia and travelled to other countries, such as Britain and Ireland. Some went to fight and steal treasure. Others settled in new lands as farmers, craftsmen or traders.

### **Information: The Anglo-Saxons**

The Romans invaded Britain in AD 43. After that, for 400 years southern Britain was part of the Roman world. The last Roman soldiers left Britain in AD 410, and then new people came in ships across the North Sea. Historians call them Anglo-Saxons. The new settlers were a mixture of people from north Germany, Denmark and northern Holland. Most were Saxons, Angles and Jutes. There were some Franks and Frisians too. If we use the modern names for the countries they came from, the Saxons, Franks and Frisians were German-Dutch, the Angles were southern Danish, and Jutes were northern Danish.

**Warm Up Questions: Use the information from the Information: Vikings/Anglo Saxons on the previous page to complete the following questions.**

1. Ancient Britain, is what modern European country?

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2. Which countries people invaded Britain not once, but twice as both Viking and Anglo-Saxon?

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3. Which barbarian group invaded Britain first?

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Web Questions: Use information from the **Viking** website to help answer the following questions. Look at the area of the website that says “**Select an area to explore**”. You will be exploring *Family Life, Viking Raiders, and Beliefs and Stories*. You may need to navigate in these areas several times in order to find your answers so stay focused, the answers are there. Each area has several sub-sections, so if you’re in *Family Life*, and the question is about **children** there is a folder in that section labelled **Children**.



**\*\*\* Read the Fun Facts from *Family Life* section to answer question 4\*\*\***

4. What were Viking ice skates made out of?

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5. Who was responsible for the education of Viking children and how were they taught?

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6. In the winter time, what activities did Vikings do in order to pass the long cold days and nights? (Give 2)

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- \_\_\_\_\_

7. What were some of the special skills some Viking men had?

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8. If a child was born to a slave mother and a free father, was that child considered free or slave? Explain.

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**\*\*\* Read the Fun Facts from *Viking Raiders* section to answer question 9\*\*\***

9. Crazy or crazy Vikings wearing animal skins were fearful fighters on the battlefield, what were these men called?

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10. What was the Christian Churches reaction to the Viking raids?

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11. In your opinion, why would the Vikings have gone after churches and monasteries instead of towns and cities?

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12. When the Viking raids began, why weren't the English Kings able to stop these waves of attacks?

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13. Why don't we have many artifacts from ancient Viking peoples?

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14. About how many (on average) men were on each Viking longboat?

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15. Define the word *pagan*. What other word means the same thing, polytheistic or monotheistic?

*pagan-*

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**\*\*\* Read the Fun Facts from *Beliefs and Stories* section to answer question 16\*\*\***

16. What are the names of the two ravens that bring news to the Norse God, Odin?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

17. Which of the Norse Gods was known as the “trickster” god?

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18. Where did Viking warriors hope to go when they died? Define the word *Feasted*?

- \_\_\_\_\_

*Feasted* -

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19. Some Vikings established settlements in the places they invaded, what religion did they convert to?

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20. What animals were Viking Chiefs sometimes buried with? Explain the two most common ways Vikings took care of their dead.

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Web Questions: Use information from the **Anglo-Saxon** website to help answer the following questions. Look at the area of the website that says “**Select an area to explore**”. You will be exploring *Anglo-Saxon Life, Invasion and Settlement, Anglo-Saxon Beliefs*. You may need to navigate in these areas several times in order to find your answers so stay focused, the answers are there. Each area has several sub-sections, so if you’re in *An Anglo-Saxon home*, and the question is about **clothing** there is a folder in that section labelled **clothing**.



**\*\*\* Read the Fun Facts from *Anglo-Saxon Life* section to answer question 21\*\*\***

21. What were candles made out of? Why do think poor people didn’t use beeswax candles?

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22. What did the Anglo-Saxons make their clothing out of?

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23. What was a common job for children? Does this remind you of a fable/story you have heard before? (+5 points if you can name that story)

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24. According to the reading, what did Woodworkers make?

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25. Why didn't the Anglo-Saxons repair the abandoned Roman building?

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**\*\*\* Read the Fun Facts from *Invasion and Settlement* section to answer question 26\*\*\***

26. Where is King Arthur buried? Is he dead according to the ancient Anglo-Saxons? (Explain)

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27. What made England such a desirable place to live in comparison to where the Anglo-Saxons had come from?

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28. When did Roman soldiers leave England? Which two leaders defended Briton from the Anglo-Saxon invaders?

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29. A place name that ended with the suffix –ham shows that at one time it was a Saxon settlement. What does Ham mean in the Anglo-Saxon Language?

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30. Click on the picture of the castle/fort called Castle Pevensey. Who were the original builders of the fort? What if anything does this tell us about the building techniques of these people?

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**\*\*\* Read the Fun Facts from *Anglo-Saxon Beliefs* section to answer question 31\*\*\***

31. The decision to send Christian missionaries to England happened because Pope Gregory saw Anglo-Saxon children being sold as slaves in what capitol city of the Roman Empire?

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32. What similarities can you point to when you read about the pagan gods of both the Vikings and the Anglo-Saxon's? Is this an important factor/influence in the development of England and its people?

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33. Explain the two most common ways Anglo-Saxons took care of their dead.

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34. Give an example of an item that would have been buried with a man and women. What do those items tell archeologists about the life of that individual?

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35. What was the name of the monk that helped to bring Christianity to southern England? Why might it have taken so long to covert the entire island to this new religion?

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36. Monasteries were centers of learning during the Middle Ages, monks and nuns worked, prayed and taught from these places. Who preyed on these institutions as a way to make off with easy loot?

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### **Essay Question:**

#### **Directions:**

Using materials and information gathered from the websites used for this assignment, answer **ONE** of the following essay questions. Make sure you provided details from the WebQuest and follow the correct format for completing an essay. You may need to return to the websites to gather more information, or add more details to your answers.

#### **Essay 1 -**

Thinking about the Vikings and the Anglo-Saxon migrations/invasions of England, what relevance do these people have with understanding where Americans came from, our language and heritage?

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**Essay 2 -**

Describe how the pagan and Christian religions were at odds with one another/different as well as ways in which the Christians used some pagan festivals to help convert the people to Christianity.

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