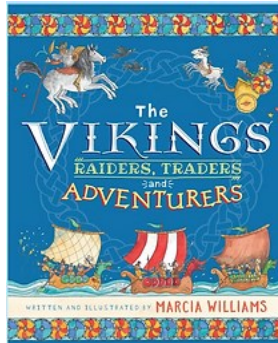
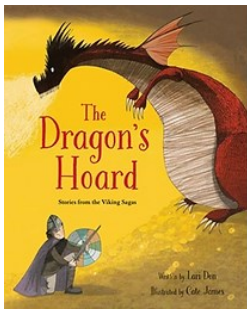


### Theme Overview

“Viking Warrior” is a competency-based thematic unit with a history focus, telling the legendary story of Ragnar Lothbrok. He is a Viking “sea lord” who, according to his very famous saga, invaded the ancient Kingdom of Frankia and then the British Isles over 1000 years ago. He is known for wearing “hairy trousers”, which protected him on his adventures.

### Recommended Reading...



Access books online for free through Hampshire School Library Service. Ask your child's teacher for their barcode/login information.

### What we should know...

#### Under Occupation

The Romans, Saxons and Vikings invaded and occupied Britain:-

Romans: 43 AD – 410 AD

Saxons: 410 AD – 1066 AD

Vikings: 793 AD – 1066 AD

#### Legacy

The Vikings left many legacies in Britain, such as combs, skis, shipbuilding, language e.g. place names -by, -thorpe, -borough, -toft, games e.g. chess, sagas and stories, jewellery.



### Where in the World?

The Vikings came from Denmark, Norway and Sweden. They invaded many countries in Northern Europe, using their excellent ships and fierce soldiers, often carrying out raids on busy ports and wealthy areas. After raiding, some Vikings settled in the new country and stayed for a long time. In Britain, the Vikings settled along the north east coast of England and the east coast of Ireland.



### Ragnar Lothbrok

Historians think that Ragnar Lothbrok's saga is a mixture of a few different Viking soldiers. His saga says that he was the son of the King of Denmark and he was very handsome and powerful, an excellent soldier and sailor. One of the most famous stories about him says that the Earl of the city, who was being terrorised by a giant snake, called upon Ragnar for help. If he could kill the snake, he could marry the Earl's daughter, Thora. The snake's blood was poisonous, so Ragnar made himself a pair of trousers and a cloak out of hair or fur and covered them in pitch. His “armour” worked by protecting him and he defeated the snake and married Thora. Ragnar's story is not unusual in the Viking age. Historians have to use evidence to decide which of the Viking warriors, kings and queens were actually real people. Their names became confused and mixed up amongst different tales and it can take a lot of work to sort out who is who. What does set the Vikings apart from other historic groups is their use of names to describe who they were.





## **Key Vocabulary you should discuss with your child**

**Coward:** a person who does not have the courage to face something difficult

**Invasion:** to enter as an army by force

**Legacy:** something handed down from the past

**Longship:** a long, narrow warship, powered by both oar and sail with many rowers, used by the Vikings

**Pitch:** sticky, black substance to make a sudden attack

**Raid:** to steal or take something a long and often complicated story of heroic deeds

**Settlement:** a place where people live

**Jovik:** the Viking kingdom around York (in north eastern England)

## **Concept Flow**

To know and be able to retell the life story of Ragnar Lothbrok

To know the chronology of invaders and settlers in Britain

To understand that Viking sagas were often written down many years after the events had possibly happened and, therefore, may contain more fiction than fact

To understand that evidence from the Viking period was passed from person to person verbally, leading to inaccuracies and omissions

To understand why the Vikings invaded Britain

To understand the way in which the past impacts on the present • To understand the importance of courage, commitment, creativity and community

Please talk to your children about the information on this sheet. The more children discuss their learning the more likely they are to embed the learning to their memory. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.