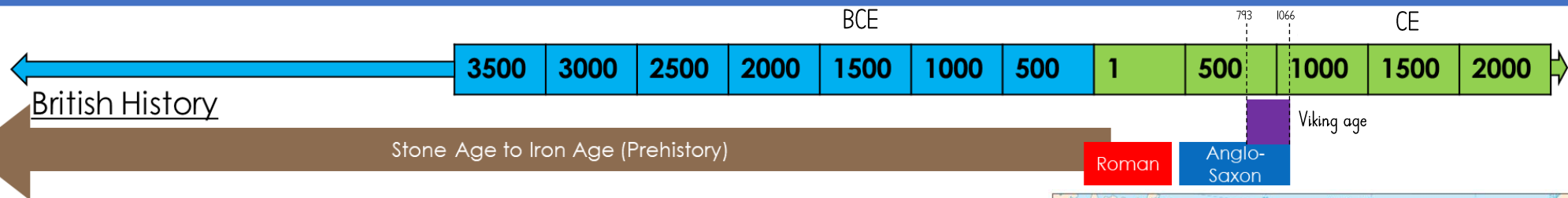


Year 5 Knowledge Organiser – Vikings



Key vocabulary:

Invasion	An unwelcome intrusion into another's domain, country or territory.
Settler	A person who moves with a group of others to live in a new country or area.
Trader	A person who makes a living by selling or trading goods.
Pagan	A person who believed in many gods.
Freeman	A person who is not a slave and free to choose who he or she worked for.
Chieftain	The leader of a village or small group of people.
Runes	The name given to the Viking alphabet.
Danelaw	The area of England ruled by the Vikings.
Monastery	The building where monks live.
Longship	A Viking ship with a sail and oars, also called a dragon-ship.
Scandinavia	Scandinavia is a sub region in Northern Europe, consisting of modern Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

Enquiry Question:

What is the legacy of the Vikings?





Raiding and Warfare

The Vikings are known for terrorising the people of Europe throughout the 9th and 10th centuries CE. Their 'hit-and-run' raids targeted weak communities, stealing treasure and taking people as slaves.

Their warlike nature also led them to invade parts of Britain and Europe. They even conquered large parts of England!



The people of Scandinavia had a history of building ships. During the Viking Age, they crafted ships that were capable of sailing up rivers and even making cross-Atlantic journeys.



Archaeology has told us a great deal about the Vikings' longships. Wealthy nobles often used their ships for burial rituals, preserving them for future generations to find.



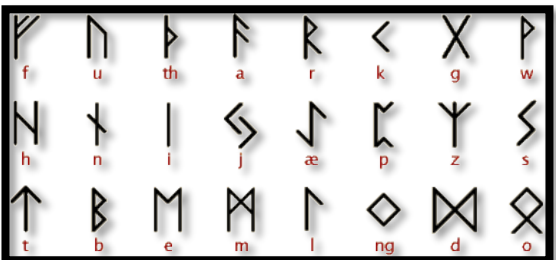
Shipbuilding and Sailing

Trading and Exploration

Though known for raiding, the Vikings were primarily expert merchants and traders. They bought and sold goods across the world, all carried on their legendary longships.



Their trade network was vast, stretching from North America to Baghdad.



The language spoken in Scandinavia during the Viking Age is known as Old Norse. Though mostly illiterate, they did leave written runes behind.

Another core part of Viking culture was their religion. They began the Viking Age as pagans, believing in a multitude of gods, including Odin (the one-eyed, wandering 'Allfather'), his son Thor (god of thunder) and Loki (god of mischief).

Language and Religion

