

Explanation writing

Why did the Vikings raid Lindisfarne?

Introduction

AD793

Lindisfarne

Lonely island off North-East Britain

Paragraph 1 Writing about the Vikings

Where they came from - Vikings from Scandinavia; Norway, Sweden and Denmark

What the countries were like - Countries were mountainous, farming land was stony and poor soil so farming was hard work

Describe Viking houses and how they lived

They Travelled by ship for trading and raiding

Vikings were good at building boats (describe a longship or show how it was built), they built the boat by overlapping planks of wood so that the boat would not let in water (clinker building – draw a diagram?)

Longships were long and narrow and could hold up to 70 men find out other information or statistics about longships

They moved through the water by oar power (Vikings rowing) or by sail power. When there was a storm the Vikings could take down the sail and shelter under it like a tent.

What tools did the Vikings use for farming?

What weapons did the Vikings use for raiding?

Paragraph 2 – The Island of Lindisfarne

Who were the monks? What sort of people were they?

Describe what a monastery was like – shape, what was it made of, lots of small buildings, tower, church, dormitory building, what else?

What did monks do all day? – the different jobs, writing, farming, healing, keeping animals as well as praying, singing, reading the Bible

Who else lived on Lindisfarne? Villagers what were their houses like and what were their jobs?

Why was a church worth raiding? The Vikings had their own gods and beliefs and other Christian settlers had attacked them before and tried to convert them to Christianity

What was in the church?

Look up illuminated Bible, chalice, cross, church plates, anything else?

What were they made of, what valuable metals (and some had gemstones on them too)?

Why was the stuff easy to steal?

Paragraph 3 – the raid at Lindisfarne

The Vikings had sailed near to Lindisfarne before to see if there was anything worth stealing or if there was an army to fight

Longships could be sailed on to the beach, why was this good for raiding?

How did the Vikings behave when they were raiding?

What did they do to the monks and villagers, to the buildings?

What did they take?

What was the difference in the Vikings and the monks (armour, weapons, behaviour)?

Concluding statement

For how many years were the Vikings a race that pillaged and raided other countries?

What did they do with the stuff taken during raids?