

Impact of Danish Invasion

- During the Viking period the territory of England was divided into Scandinavia and Anglo- Saxon Sphere of influence.
- Territory of Dane- Dane Law.
- In the Dane Law, the greatest influence of the Vikings on the Old English was felt.
- Many Scandinavian place names are exists in the North of England.
- The Danes brought their own distinct laws, place names, customs, measurements, skilled crafts and farming techniques to the Dane Law.
- The Vikings in the Dane Law settled down as farmers and lived peacefully together with Anglo-Saxons.
- There were intermarriages between Vikings and Anglo-Saxons.

- Many Viking influence – even today in life of British people.
- British surnames like Adamson, Holt, Thorn are Scandinavian origin.
- Many Viking words have also become part of English like egg, law, die, bread, down, fog, muck, lump etc.
- There were three main areas where Vikings lived- North Umbria, East Anglia and Five Boroughs.
- A borough was a town and five towns were Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Stamford, and Lincoln.
- The most important city in the Dane Law was the city of York.
- Over 10,000 people lived in York and it was important trading centre.

- The Danes had their own government.
- The Danish community gathered together at a meeting called a **Thing** (Assembly).
- Here they settled problems and make important decisions.
- People could vote on matters regarding their day to day life.
- Example : the Thing had right to decide who should own a piece of land or how to punish a criminal.
- All these was supervised by a chieftain or a judge known as **Law Speaker**.
- Viking laws were not written down, so passed orally .
- People who broke the law declared as '**outlaws**' means he is excluded from all normal legal rights.

- The Vikings also settled the disputes with a fight or v duel known as **Holmgang**.
- Anyone offended could challenge the other party to Holmgang regardless of their social status.
- Holmgang were fought 3-7 days after the challenge.
- The Viking attacks, like those of the early Anglo-Saxons, initially focused on eastern and northern Britain, the areas closest to the North Sea. They sacked and temporarily ruled London and Canterbury, even killing an archbishop of Canterbury as well as several Anglo-Saxon kings.

- They had their greatest effects in the north. The Scandinavian invasions marked the end of the Northumbrian Renaissance, as well as the kingdom of Northumbria.
- Northumbria became a land of constant warfare between Britons, Scots, Danes, Norwegians, and Anglo-Saxons.
- the Vikings sacked and looted monasteries and churches; killed and enslaved monks and priests; and killed, raped, and enslaved nuns. Monasteries were particularly attractive targets to early Viking raiders since they were usually unfortified and full of precious things that had been donated by kings, queens, and other wealthy and pious Christians.

- Vikings raided famous monasteries, including Iona, which they first attacked in 795 and returned to on several occasions thereafter, in addition to Lindisfarne. These raids were particularly shocking to the British Christians.