



Viking Poem

Read the poem and then work with the other children in your group to act out the events of each verse.

Viking Poem

The Vikings were fierce and brutal,
Poor England was under attack,
The Saxon kings fought and some peace was bought,
But those Vikings just kept coming back!

They sailed to Britain in longboats,
'Let's go Viking!' they yelled so they did,
With axes held high and a glint in their eyes,
Many Britons just ran and then hid!

When a new wave of Viking raids started,
Poor King Ethelred struggled to cope,
So Danegeld he paid to try and stop raids,
But the Vikings came back in their boats.

The Danegeld tax couldn't contain them,
And Ethelred got called 'the un-ready',
"It's simply not funny, they're after more money!
I'm fleeing abroad instead!"

In the end some Vikings liked it in Britain,
They enjoyed the English way,
They sent for their wives and started new lives,
Vikings were here to stay!





Viking Poem



Can you match the verses of the poem to the events they refer to and put them into a sensible order?

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| When a new wave of Viking raids started, Poor King Ethelred struggled to cope, So Danegeld he paid to try and stop raids, but the Vikings came back in their boats. | King Ethelred II introduced a tax called Danegeld to try and pay the Vikings to go away. In AD 991 4500kgs of silver was paid in Danegeld. |
| In the end some Vikings liked it in Britain, They enjoyed the English way, They sent for their wives and started new lives, Vikings were here to stay. | The Vikings came from Scandinavia and sailed in longboats to 'go Viking' which meant raiding and looting other places. |
| The Vikings were fierce and brutal, Poor England was under attack, The Saxon kings fought and some peace was bought, But those Vikings just kept coming back. | King Ethelred was given the title 'The Un-ready' because he was a weak, ill-advised king. |
| The Danegeld tax couldn't contain them, And Ethelred got called 'the un-raed', "It's simply not funny, they're after more money! I'm fleeing abroad instead!" | Over time many Vikings settled in Britain, making it their permanent home. |
| They sailed to Britain in longboats, 'Let's go Viking!' they yelled so they did, With axes held high and a glint in their eyes, Many Britons just ran off and hid. | Viking raids occurred in Britain on and off from the 8th century onwards. |

Use the knowledge you have learnt in the lesson and from reading the poem to answer the questions:

1. What problems did Ethelred face during his time as king?
2. What things did he do to try to deal with the situation?
3. Was paying Danegeld a good idea?

When you have finished, draw illustrations for some of the verses.



Viking Poem



Can you write some verses of your own to finish the poem so it explains about the introduction of Danegeld?

Use the ideas box to help you include relevant details. When you have finished you can draw pictures to illustrate the events of each verse.

The Vikings were fierce and brutal,
Poor England was under attack,
The Saxon kings fought and some peace was bought,
But those Vikings just kept coming back!

Vocabulary/poem ideas

- Ethelred
- Danegeld
- Danes
- Vikings
- paid to go home
- paid weight in silver
- Vikings demanded that more and more Danegeld was paid
- Ethelred blamed for not dealing with Vikings properly

In the end some Vikings liked it in Britain,
They enjoyed the English way,
They sent for their wives and started new lives,
Vikings were here to stay!