THE VIKINGS

Why did the Vikings raid Lindisfarne Monastery and why was this so significant?



Name:



LINDISTARNE MONASTERY RAID



Lindisfarne Monastery was built in 634 AD by Saint Aidan, on the island of Lindisfarne.

The monastery sat at the heart of Christianity in the north of England and was highly respected by its people.

As its importance grew, more and more money and gift were sent to the monastery, as it became a popular holy place for pilgrimage.



Ruins of Lindisfarne Church, Northumberland

The English built their monasteries in remote places, such as islands, to keep them away from the politics of the mainland and they felt they would be safe from bandits and thieves.

As it was believed to be safe, no guards were placed there. The treasures were watched over by the monks and priests.

Why did this make the monastery vunerable traids?	o Viking
The Vikings (who were excellent sailors), chose the of Lindisfarne due to it being unguarded and easil to an attack from any side.	
On June 8th 793AD, Vikings set their sights on Lir and the events that occurred would be the start of Viking Age in Britain.	•
At that time, the Vikings had been raiding in Brito but on a much smaller scale. This was the first time they had targeted a larger settlement.	in Section 1
Why did the Vikings decide to target monaste	eries?
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"Here were dreadful forewarnings come over the land of Northumbria, and woefully terrified the people.

There were amazing sheets of lightning and whirlwinds, and fiery dragons were seen flying in the sky. A great famine soon followed these signs, and shortly after in the same year, on the sixth day before the ides of January, the woeful inroads of heathen men destroyed God's church in Lindisfarne island by fierce robbery and slaughter."

Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

Write a newspaper report about what happened during the Viking raid on Lindisfarne Monastery, Northumberland.

Include an account from an eye-witness.

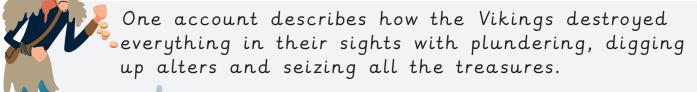






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Accurate reports of what took place during the raid are unclear, as at the time, records were not routinely kept but we know the monks had no way to defend themselves and a great slaughter took place that day.

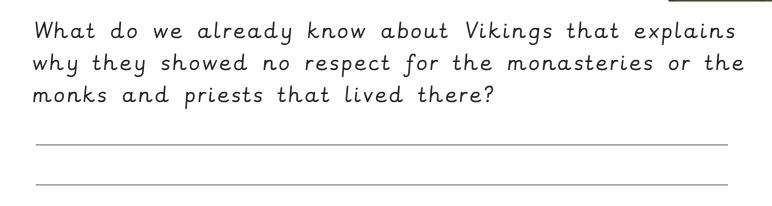


What happened to the Monks was far worse, as they were reportedly beaten or drowned in the sea.

Why was	Britain	so sho	cked and	d upset	by wha	t the
Vikings h	ad done	?				

The importance of the Lindisfarne raid is key to the history of the Viking invasion of Britain.

By attacking such a holy place (which was founded by a Saint), the Vikings had shown they had no respect for Britain or their religious beliefs.





Following the attack, more raids took place. The Jarrow and Iona Monastery were both raided due to being isolated and undefended.

Once news spread of the wealth and treasures being brought back to the Viking homelands, invasion was next on the Viking's agenda...

Writing task (choose one)

Write a letter to King Ethelred of Northumbria, from the perspective of a monk survivor of the Lindisfarne

raid.



Things to consider:

What happened?
Why did this happen?
How did you feel?
How did you survive?

Write a letter to your family back home, from the perspective of a fierce Viking raider.

Things to consider:

How did you get there?
Why did you raid Lindisfarne?
What was there when you arrived?
What events took place?



