

Early Viking raids



History

Unit: The Vikings: why did they come to the British Isles?

Outcome

I can describe the early Viking raids on the island of Lindisfarne.



Keywords

raid

priory

longboat

manuscript

monk



Keywords

A **raid** is a rapid surprise attack, usually involving stealing something.

A **priory** is a building lived in by a community who follow religious vows.

A **longboat** is a long, light and slender boat that the Vikings used to travel.

A **manuscript** is a book or document written by hand.

A **monk** is a member of a religious community of men.



Lesson outline

Early Viking raids



How did the Vikings attack Lindisfarne Priory?



Why did the Vikings raid Lindisfarne Priory?



How did the Vikings attack Lindisfarne Priory?



A. 793. This year dire forwarnings came over the land of the North-humbrians, and miserably terrified the people; these were excessive whirlwinds, and lightnings; and fiery dragons were seen flying in the air. A great famine soon followed these tokens; and a little after that, in the same year, on the 6th before the Ides of January, the ravaging of heathen men lamentably destroyed God's church at Lindisfarne through rapine and slaughter.

What do you think this information is describing?



How did the Vikings attack Lindisfarne Priory?



A. 793. This year dire forwarnings came over the land of the North-humbrians, and miserably terrified the people; these were excessive whirlwinds, and lightnings; and fiery dragons were seen flying in the air. A great famine soon followed these tokens; and a little after that, in the same year, on the 6th before the Ides of January, the ravaging of heathen men lamentably destroyed God's church at Lindisfarne through rapine and slaughter.

It is describing an attack on a place called Lindisfarne.



How did the Vikings attack Lindisfarne Priory?



Photo of the Lindisfarne Priory ruins

The Vikings first invaded Britain in 793 CE.

The first major Viking **raid** in Britain was the attack on Lindisfarne **Priory**.

Source: Nilfanion.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lindisfarne_Priory_7.JPG. This file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license.



How did the Vikings attack Lindisfarne Priory?

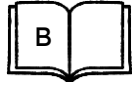


Photo of the Lindisfarne Priory ruins

A **priory** is a religious building where **monks** or **nuns** live.

Lindisfarne **Priory** was built on a small island off the North East coast of England.

Source: Nilfanion.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lindisfarne_Priory_7.JPG. This file is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/).



How did the Vikings attack Lindisfarne Priory?



Check

A building lived in by a community who follow religious vows is called a...

- a** priory ✓
- b** church
- c** cathedral



How did the Vikings attack Lindisfarne Priory?



Photo of a Viking longboat

When the people of Britain first saw the Viking **longboats**, they came down to the shore to welcome them ...



How did the Vikings attack Lindisfarne Priory?

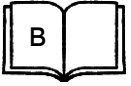


Photo of the 'Doomsday stone'
- grave marker

However, the Vikings fought the local people, stole from them and burned their buildings to the ground!

Source: User:Schillerwein.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Viking_Raider_Doomsday_Stone_front.jpg. This work is in the public domain.



How did the Vikings attack Lindisfarne Priory?



Check

When did the Vikings **raid** Lindisfarne **Priory**?

a 790 CE

b 783 CE

c 793 CE ✓



How did the Vikings attack Lindisfarne Priory?

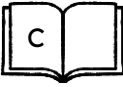


Photo of the coast of Lindisfarne

The Vikings arrived in Britain in **longboats** with around 30 warriors on board.

They were able to approach, land, attack and leave quickly.

Source: Chris Combe from York, UK.
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Holy_Island_Sunrise_\(again\)_15064111624.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Holy_Island_Sunrise_(again)_15064111624.jpg). This file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic license.



How did the Vikings attack Lindisfarne Priory?



Photo of a Viking longboat

Longboats could sail in shallow water, which meant the Vikings could travel up rivers as well as across the sea.

The **longboats** were long, light and slender so they could move around quickly.



How did the Vikings attack Lindisfarne Priory?



Check

Describe why the design of Viking **longboats** made them effective for **raids**.

The longboats were designed to sail in shallow water so they could travel across rivers and seas. They were also made long, light and slender which meant they were quick. This made longboats effective for raids.



Lesson outline

Early Viking raids



How did the Vikings attack Lindisfarne Priory?



Why did the Vikings raid Lindisfarne Priory?



Why did the Vikings raid Lindisfarne Priory?



The first targets for the Vikings **raids** were all religious buildings like monasteries, **priories** and churches.



Photo of the Lindisfarne Priory
ruins

Source: Nilfanion.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lindisfarne_Priory_7.JPG.

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Why did the Vikings raid Lindisfarne Priory?



These religious buildings were located near the coast.

This made them easy targets for the longboats.



Photo of the coast of Lindisfarne

Source: Chris Combe from York, UK.
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Holy_Island_Sunrise_\(again\)_\(15064111624\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Holy_Island_Sunrise_(again)_(15064111624).jpg). This file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic license.



Why did the Vikings raid Lindisfarne Priory?



Check

True or false?

Religious buildings were an easy target for the Vikings.

T True ✓

F False

Justify your answer

a They were near the coast. ✓

b They were in the villages.



Why did the Vikings raid Lindisfarne Priory?



Priories like those in Lindisfarne made **manuscripts** and were filled with valuable religious objects.



Photo of the Lindisfarne Priory ruins

Source: Nilfanion.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lindisfarne_Priory_7.JPG.

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Why did the Vikings raid Lindisfarne Priory?

During the **raids**, the Vikings murdered **monks** and stole **precious objects** for trade and to increase their own wealth.



Illustration of Viking raid at Lindisfarne

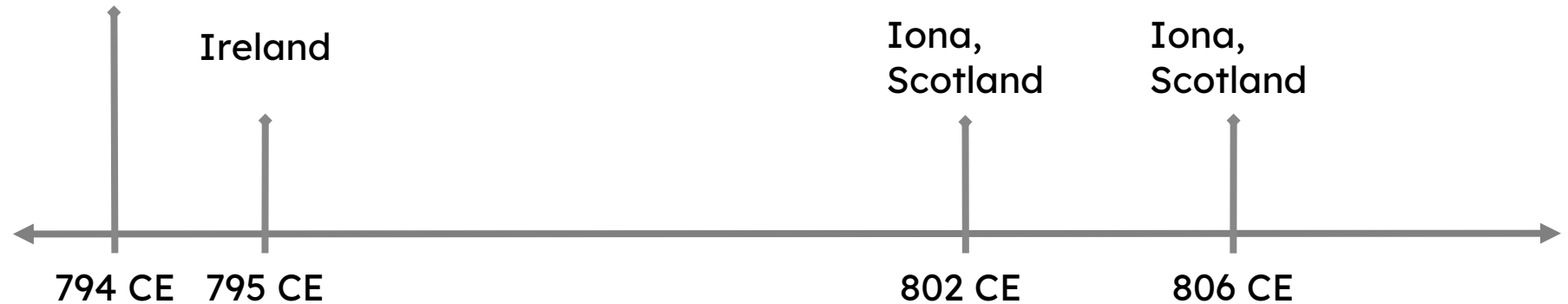


Why did the Vikings raid Lindisfarne Priory?



Viking raids of monasteries, priories and churches continued across the British Isles.

Jarrow,
Northumbria



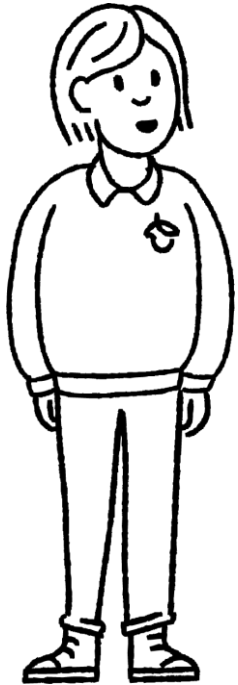
Why did the Vikings raid Lindisfarne Priory?



Why did the Vikings **raid** monasteries, **priories** and churches?

- a** to murder monks
- b** to steal valuable objects ✓
- c** to write manuscripts



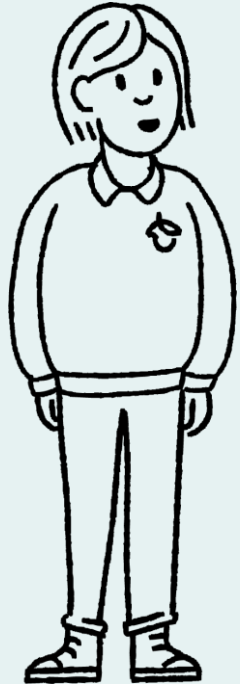


The Vikings raided Lindisfarne and other monasteries, **priories** and churches because they wanted to murder the **monks**.

Using what you have learnt, explain why this statement is incorrect.

Give two reasons why the Vikings raided Lindisfarne.





The Vikings raided Lindisfarne and other monasteries, **priories** and churches because they wanted to murder the **monks**.

*This statement is incorrect because the Vikings raided Lindisfarne for the **valuable religious objects**. They also raided Lindisfarne because it was an **easy target** located on the coast.*



Summary Early Viking raids

The attack on Lindisfarne **Priory** in 793 CE was the first major **Viking raid** on the British Isles.

The Vikings arrived in **longboats** which could land, attack and leave quickly.

Priories like the one on Lindisfarne made **manuscripts** and were filled with valuable religious objects.

The Vikings murdered **monks** and stole these valuable objects for trade and their own wealth.



Can you draw a Viking. Colour or paint if you wish.

You can use the youtube drawing link to help you if you wish:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08FVs4Cvq3o>

