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MASTERING COMPREHENSION: Photocopiable Activities to Improve Reading



FOR AGES 8-9

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CONTENTS

IN ⁻	TRODUCTION	5
PA	RT1	8
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11.	Pharaohs and mummies The Lake District Anglo-Saxons Teeth Ramadan and Eid Vikings and Lindisfarne Rivers of the world Guide dogs The digestive system Anti-Bullying Week Spartan life Soldiers' armour	8 18 28 38 48 58 68 78 88 98 108 118
PA	RT 2	12
13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24.	Orienteering Life with electrical appliances Horrid Henry VIII Chimpanzees Great inventors The river Ganges Howard Carter Country study: Russia Animal habitats Boudicca Roman Britain Food chains	128 132 136 140 144 148 152 156 160 164 168 172
AN	ISWERS	17 (



6 VIKINGS AND LINDISFARNE

Lindisfarne, also known as Holy Island, can be found off the coast of north-east England. It's a pretty, peaceful island – but that's only nowadays! In 793 CE, a devastating event occurred there.

Lindisfarne was named by the Anglo-Saxons, and it was developed by early Christians. By 793, it was home to a wealthy monastery. Unfortunately, the treasures inside it, and its remote location, made it an easy target for Viking raiders.

The Vikings attacked Lindisfarne in such a savage and unprovoked way that it shocked the Christian world. They killed or enslaved the monks who lived in the monastery and stole precious religious items.

This was only the beginning for the Vikings in Britain, though. The attack on Lindisfarne is considered to be the start of the Viking era.

Who were the Vikings?

Most Vikings came from an area of northern Europe now called Scandinavia, which includes the countries Sweden, Denmark and Norway. The word 'Viking' does not refer to a person from a particular place, but someone who sails, raids and explores.

The first raiders were master sailors. They travelled in longboats: long, narrow wooden boats ideal for sailing in both deep and shallow waters. They were also fearsome warriors.

The Vikings' religion taught them that, to achieve the perfect afterlife, a Viking warrior had to die a grand death in battle. This made the Vikings fierce and brutal fighters, with little fear of death.



The Viking invasion

Initially, the Vikings came to Britain only to raid it. However, those who returned home took stories of fertile farmland and calm weather. More and more Vikings made the journey from Scandinavia to Britain. Most weren't warriors: they were fisherman or farmers in search of better lives.

By the end of the 800s, 100 years after Lindisfarne was attacked, Vikings had built or joined settlements all over Britain. Many of them lived peacefully alongside the Anglo-Saxons.

Vikings still struggled for power, though, and battles were fought regularly. In 878, after a defeat by King Alfred the Great, they were made to sign a treaty stating that they had to stay on their own land. This land was known as 'Danelaw,' as it was subject to Danish laws. Negotiations continued nevertheless and, early in the 1000s, the king of Denmark became king of England as well.

Vikings among us

The Vikings who stayed in Britain became as much a part of its culture as the Anglo-Saxons. There are many places still named by them, such as York, which they called Jorvik, and anywhere that ends in -aby, like Derby and Grimsby, as 'by' meant 'village' in Norse. They also helped to develop shipbuilding and storytelling.

Of course, their destruction is still with us too. The ruins of the church of Saint Cuthbert still stand on Lindisfarne today and are visited regularly as a place of historical interest. If you visit the island, you could take the first steps those Scandinavian invaders did, all those years ago!











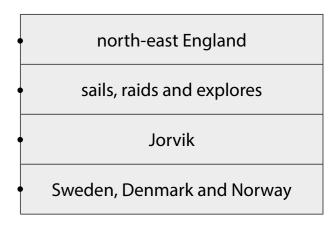


Read the sentences and choose the correct word to fill the gap. Look back at *Vikings and Lindisfarne* to find the correct answer.

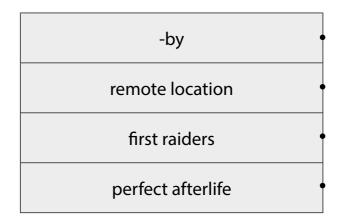
Most Vikings came from an area of northern Eu	ırope now called
, which include	s the countries Sweden, Denmark
and Norway.	
The Vikings attacked Lindisfarne in such a	and
unprovoked way that it shocked the Christian	world.
Lindisfarne, also known as Holy	, can be found off the
coast of north-east England.	
The Vikings' religion taught them that, to achie	eve the perfect
, a Viking warri	or had to die a grand death in battle.
They travelled in	: long, narrow wooden boats ideal for
sailing in both deep and shallow waters.	
Initially, the Vikings came to Britain only to	it.
The on Lindisfa	arne is considered to be the start of the
Viking era.	
The first raiders were master	·
They killed or enslaved the	who lived in the monastery
and stole precious religious items.	
Unfortunately, the treasures inside it, and its re for Viking raide	·
By the end of the 800s, 100 years after Lindisfa	rne was attacked, Vikings had built or
joined all over	_
More and more Vikings made the	from Scandinavia
to Britain.	

Draw a line with a ruler to match the information.





Draw a line with a ruler to match the information.





Draw a line with a ruler to match the information.

Britain
fishermen or farmers
878
793 CE

fertile farmyard and calm weather

defeat by King Alfred the Great

better life

devastating event at Lindisfarne







6 VIKINGS AND LINDISFARNE



Most Vikings came from an area in southern Europe.



Label the information with the correct word or words.

Sweden, Denmark and Norway	
Holy Island	
Viking boat	
king who defeated the Vikings	
York	
-by	

Label the information with the correct word or words.

pretty, peaceful island	
someone who sails, raids and explores	
king known as 'the Great'	
subject to Danish laws	
place where monks live	
master sailors	

Draw the statement in the boxes. Add your own labels to your drawing.

wealthy monastery in Lindisfarne	precious religious items
fertile farmyard and calm weather	battle between Vikings and King Alfred the Great

Read the sentences. Put a tick in the correct box to show which sentences are *true* and which are *false*.

The word 'Viking' refers to a person from a particular place.	True 🗌	False
The first raiders were master sailors.	True 🗌	False
Vikings travelled in shortboats.	True 🗌	False
Vikings were fierce and brutal fighters.	True 🗌	False
Many Vikings lived peacefully alongside Anglo-Saxons.	True 🗌	False
Lindisfarne is also known as Holy Island.	True 🗌	False
Lindisfarne was developed by early Anglo-Saxons.	True 🗌	False
Vikings who returned home took stories of stormy weather.	True 🗌	False
The king of Denmark became the king of England.	True 🗌	False
'By' meant 'village' in Norse.	True 🗌	False 🗌
Vikings helped to develop shipbuilding.	True 🗌	False
Danelaw was subject to Danish laws.	True 🗌	False
Vikings had a great fear of death.	True 🗌	False
Vikings killed all of the monks who lived in the monastery.	True 🗌	False



OMULTIPLE CHOICE









Circle the correct answer to the following questions.

	_			occur in the sentence	es.		
When did the Vikings	invade Lindisfarne?				y King Alfred the Grea	•	
793 CE	800 CE	878 CE	1000 CE	that they had to stay on their own land. This land was known as 'Danelaw,' as it was subject to Danish laws.			
Which part of Europe	did most Vikings come	from?					
western	eastern	southern	northern	laws	treaty	defeat	after
What type of boats d	id Vikings travel in?			Look at the first sect	ion in <i>Vikings and Line</i>	disfarne. Number the	statements from
canoes	longboats	shortboats	kayaks	1 to 5 to show the or	der they occur in the	text.	
Which king defeated	the Vikinas in 878?			This was only the begi	inning for the Vikings i	n Britain, though.	
				The attack on Lindisfa	rne is considered to be	the birth of the Vikino	g era.
King Edward	King Alfin	King Alfred	King Edwin		o a wealthy monastery.	_	
Who did the Vikings	enslave during the attac	ck on Lindisfarne?		•	sland – but that's only		
animals	soldiers	monks	villagers		d the monks who lived	•	stole
Who named Lindisfar	ne?				<i>indisfarne</i> . Number the fire		
Anglo-Saxons	Vikings	Christians	the king of England	oraci an o, occan an a			
				More and more Viking	s made the journey fro	om Scandinavia to Brita	ain.
What did the Vikings	have little fear of?			In 793 CE, a devastatir	ng event occurred there	e.	
sailing	death	raiding	an attack	Most weren't warriors	: they were fisherman o	or farmers in search of	better lives.
What does 'by' mean	in Norse?			Of course, their destru	iction is still with us too	D.	
town	village	city	house	They also helped to de	evelop shipbuilding an	d storytelling.	

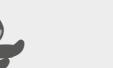
Look at the sentences below. Write the numbers 1 to 4 to show the order the words

ling.



FIND AND COPY





These questions are about Vikings and Lindisfarne.

Look at paragraph one. Find and copy a word that suggests that the island was sacred
Look at the paragraph beginning 'The Vikings attacked Lindisfarne'. Find and copy a word that suggests that the monks had done nothing to make the Vikings attack.
Look at the paragraph beginning 'By the end of the 800s'. Find and copy a word that suggests that many Vikings were able to live without war or violence.
Look at the paragraph beginning 'Vikings still struggled'. Find and copy a word that suggests an agreement between the Vikings and King Alfred the Great.



QUNDERLINE OR HIGHLIGHT



Read the paragraphs below and then follow the instructions.

The Vikings who stayed in Britain became as much a part of its culture as the Anglo-Saxons. There are many places still named by them, such as York, which they called Jorvik, and anywhere that ends in -by, like Derby and Grimsby, as 'by' meant 'village' in Norse. They also helped to develop shipbuilding and storytelling.

Of course, their destruction is still with us too. The ruins of the church of Saint Cuthbert still stand on Lindisfarne today and are visited regularly as a place of historical interest. If you visit the island, you could take the first steps those Scandinavian invaders did, all those years ago!

Underline or highlight a word that means the ideas, customs and social behaviour of a particular place.

Underline or highlight a word that means ruin and damage beyond repair.

Underline or highlight a word that means to go and see and spend time there.

Underline or highlight a word that means a piece of land surrounded by water.

Underline or highlight a word that means a group that enters and occupies a country.

4. TEETH FILL IN THE GAP

similar broken layers decay premolars brush healthy tooth root tissue Animals minerals

MATCHING

dental pulp nerves and bloo vessels dentine yellowish substated fine layer hardest tissue incisors front of the moupremolars lumps and ridge canines fangs molars back of the moupremolars biting soft foods premolars mash food	d
dentine yellowish substated cementum fine layer hardest tissue incisors front of the mount premolars lumps and ridge canines fangs molars back of the mount incisors biting soft foods premolars mash food	
cementum fine layer hardest tissue incisors front of the mou premolars lumps and ridge canines fangs molars back of the mou incisors biting soft foods premolars mash food	
enamel hardest tissue incisors front of the mou premolars lumps and ridge canines fangs molars back of the mou incisors biting soft foods premolars mash food	nce
incisors front of the mount of	
premolars lumps and ridge canines fangs back of the mou incisors biting soft foods premolars mash food	
canines fangs molars back of the mou incisors biting soft foods premolars mash food	th
molars back of the mou incisors biting soft foods premolars mash food	S
incisors biting soft foods premolars mash food	
premolars mash food	th
;	
1	
canines rip and tear toug foods	her
molars crushing food in a paste	to

LABEL

bones
dental pulp
dentine
cementum
enamel
teeth
incisors
molars
canines
premolars

molars

incisors

TRUE OR FALSE

		_
1.	True	9. False
2.	True	10. True
3.	False	11. False
4.	True	12. False
5.	True	13. True
6.	True	14. False
7.	True	15. True
8.	True	

MULTIPLE CHOICE

four four bones dental pulp twice cementum yellowish incisors

SEQUENCING

1, 3, 4, 2 2, 1, 4, 5, 3 1, 2, 4, 3, 5

FIND AND COPY

progressed heal extraordinary twice

UNDERLINE OR HIGHLIGHT

connects surrounds fine visible chewing

5. RAMADAN AND EID

FILL IN THE GAP

religion dawn end eat Mosques pilgrimage Fasting charity ninth lunar difficulty prayer

MATCHING

<u> </u>				
Muslim	follower of Islam			
Islam	second-largest religion			
Eid	huge celebration			
Ramadan	ninth month			
Islamic calendar	lunar calendar			
difficulty of fasting	focus on their faith			
not required to fast	very young or very old			
fasting	devotion to faith			
Месса	holy city			
fasting	between dawn and sunset			
sweet foods	popular			
lunar calendar	cycles of the moon			

LABEL

Mecca
Eid
Five Pillars of Islam
Muslim
Islam
month
sweet foods
Eid
three days
ninth
Islam
dawn till sunset

TRUE OR FALSE

1.	False	9.	True
2.	True	10.	True
3.	True	11.	True
4.	True	12.	True
5.	False	13.	False
6.	True	14.	False
7.	False	15.	False
8.	False		

MULTIPLE CHOICE

one month lunar Eid five sweet Mecca year to year charity

SEQUENCING

3, 2, 1, 4 1, 2, 4, 3, 5 5, 1, 3, 4, 2

FIND AND COPY

population vow pilgrimage celebration

UNDERLINE OR HIGHLIGHT

fast difficulty sunset vary faith

6. VIKINGS AND LINDISFARNE

FILL IN THE GAP

Scandinavia savage Island afterlife longboats raid attack sailors monks target settlements journey

MATCHING

Viking	sails, raids and explores
Scandinavia	Sweden, Denmark and Norway
York	Jorvik
Lindisfarne	north-east England
-by	village
remote location	easy target
first raiders	master sailors
perfect afterlife	grand death in battle
Britain	fertile farmyard and calm weather
fishermen or farmers	better life
878	defeat by King Alfred the Great
793 CE	devastating event a Lindisfarne

LABEL

Scandinavia
Lindisfarne
longboat
Alfred the Great
Jorvik
village
Lindisfarne
Viking
Alfred
Danelaw
monastery
first raiders

TRUE OR FALSE

1.	False	9.	False	
2.	False	10.	True	
3.	True	11.	True	
4.	False	12.	True	
5.	True	13.	True	
6.	True	14.	False	
7.	True	15.	False	
8.	False			

MULTIPLE CHOICE

793 CE northern longboats King Alfred monks Anglo-Saxons death village

SEQUENCING

4, 3, 2, 1 4, 5, 2, 1, 3 2, 1, 3, 5, 4

FIND AND COPY

Holy unprovoked peacefully treaty

UNDERLINE OR HIGHLIGHT

culture destruction visit island invaders

7. RIVERS OF THE WORLD

FILL IN THE GAP

features
Andes
Amazon
polluted
Nile
Earth's
longest
landmarks
Wales
endangered
famous
rainforest

MATCHING

River Nile	6,650 km					
Amazon river	6,400 km					
Yangtze River	6,350 km					
River Thames	346 km					
the Mississippi	America					
the Ganges	India					
the Danube	Europe					
the Mequon	south-east Asia					
rivers	breathtaking natural features					
Amazon rainforest	fascinating variety of animals and plants					
River Nile	history, romance and fame					
Yangtze River	home to world's most endangered species					

LABEL

Nile Yangtze Thames Amazon Severn Amazon Nile Severn Yangtze Ganges Amazon

Nile

TRUE OR FALSE

1.	False	9.	False	
2.	False	10.	True	
3.	True	11.	True	
4.	False	12.	False	
5.	True	13.	True	
6.	True	14.	True	
7.	True	15.	False	
8.	False			

MULTIPLE CHOICE

6,650 km Amazon Guyana Ganges Yangtze 346 km Severn Amazon

SEQUENCING

1, 4, 3, 2 1, 4, 2, 3, 5 5, 2, 4, 3, 1

FIND AND COPY

breathtaking incredible variety through

UNDERLINE OR HIGHLIGHT

connecting season providing travels coast

8. GUIDE DOGS FILL IN THE GAP

find
American
trainers
blinded
volunteer
paired
seven
distracted
cost
companionship
Humans
remarkable