

Battles That Shaped Britain's History

Teachers' Notes : King Alfred and the Vikings

Battles That Shaped Britain's History is a terms project that looks at key battles over the last 2000 years. This week we are looking at the last big battle between King Alfred of the Saxons and Guthrum of the Vikings in 878 AD.

1. Look at the time line and where this battle fits in. The Viking period lasted from around 790AD to 1100 AD.
2. There is an information pack of 6 pages about King Alfred and the Vikings. These will be needed for the activities below.
3. **First Activity:** The activities pages start with a cloze passage about the life of King Alfred, the first great king of England. Children can either just fill in the spaces or rewrite the whole passage. They need to read page 1 of the information pages.

Second Activity: The second activity again is a comprehension task and requires sentence answers. They need to read pages 1 and 2 of the information sheets.

Third Activity: The children can choose one from a choice of 3 extended activities that require reading and research skills and writing in paragraphs. Pages 3-6 of the information sheets are needed for the first two activities with internet and reference book research needed for the third activity.

Some internet sites worth looking at are:

www.britanexpress.com/history/battles
www.historyonthenet.com
www.eyewitnesstohistory.com
www.history-uk.com
www.britishbattles.com
www.bbc.co.uk/wales/celts

Taking Notes Effectively

What is the piece of writing about ?

Read the introduction and headings.

Look at the illustrations, charts and graphs and read the captions.

What are the main points or ideas ?

Read through carefully thinking about what the main points or ideas are.

Make your notes

In your own words, summarize the information. Do not copy information directly from the book or internet. If you include a quote that is written in the book, use quotation marks.