

Viking Conquests



“God save us from the fury of the Northmen.”

The 'Danelaw'



- The Vikings smashed the powers of the Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms. In 878 King Alfred the Great of Wessex defeat the Guthrum the Old, the Norse king. Alfred was acknowledged as “King of the English” and Guthrum the Old signed a peace treaty called the ‘Danelaw’.

Conversion to Christianity

- The Treaty of Wedmore-878, Alfred accepted Guthram's surrender. Each king acknowledged the others holdings status quo.
- The monk Asser, wrote in his *Life of Alfred*: "*swore in addition that they would leave his kingdom immediately, and Guthrum, their king, promised to accept Christianity and to receive baptism at King Alfred's hand; all of which he and his men fulfilled as they had promised.*"
- Guthram takes the Christian name of **Æthelstan.**
- The division of the island into 'Angeland' and the Danelaw exists until 1013.



Viking Legacy in England

- 1013 King Sweyn of Denmark launches major invasion. His son King Canute conquers England. This is the time period of Shakespeare's play *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*.
- 1015-1042 England is divided into a Norse kingdom in the north, and an Anglo-Saxon English kingdom in the south under King Edmund Ironsides.
- England is reunited under English rule under King Edward the Confessor 1042-1066

Anglo-Norse England under Edward the Confessor 1042-1066

- King Edward the Confessor was the son of Æthelred the Unready and Emma of Normandy. He inherited a kingdom divided by loyalties, language, and customs.

