

Were the Vikings raiders, traders or something else?

Jot down any observations and inferences you can make about the Vikings from the sources.

Source 1



Credit: Anders Blomqvist / Alamy Stock Photo

Observations and inferences

1 What impression of the Vikings do you get from source 1?

Source 2

Extract from 'Historia Regum' by Simeon of Durham.

The pagans from the northern regions came with a naval force to Britain like stinging hornets and spread on all sides like fearful wolves, robbed, tore and slaughtered not only beasts of burden, sheep and oxen, but even priests and deacons, and companies of monks and nuns. And they came to the church of Lindisfarne, laid everything waste with grievous plundering, trampled the holy places with polluted steps, dug up the altars and seized all the treasures of the holy church.

Observations and inferences

2 What impression of the Vikings do you get from source 2?

Were the Vikings raiders, traders or something else?

3

Why are the perspectives different? Provide supporting evidence for your answer.

4

Which source do you think best describes the Vikings? Why?
