

History

The fight for land

Book: Anglo-Saxon Raiders and Settlers

Pages 34-39

Students: Fill in the answers and return for assessment

Everything here is based on our Curriculum Visions book Anglo-Saxon raiders and settlers.

You can open this book online now by clicking on the book cover. It will open in a new window or tab.

In this segment, we are going to take a look at Anglo-Saxon battles to stay powerful by King Offa and King Alfred.

You will need to go to pages 34-35 of the book.

Part 1

Why did kings need to go to war during Anglo-Saxon times? What was the main purpose for King Offa's dyke? Why didn't the advances made by Mercia under King Offa last very long?

Answer ...

They went to war for treasure, which was demanded by their people.

The dyke was to fix the boundary between Mercia and Wales, but it also set a boundary for the British people

The advances did not last long because once Offa died, the king of Wessex and the Vikings captured most of Mercia.

Now turn to pages 36-37

Part 2

In the time of King Alfred, Anglo-Saxon lands in Britain were invaded by Vikings. Although the Vikings won many battles, King Alfred eventually defeated them. What tactics did he use to do this? Why is he called Alfred the Great?

Answer ...

Alfred was defeated at first, but he then made many hit and run raids that weakened the Danes. He then gathered a large army and defeated them at the Battle of Edington.

He is called Alfred the Great because he had defeated the Danes.

You will need to go to pages 38-39 of the book.

Part 3

What was a burh? Why did King Alfred build burhs? Look on a map - can you find a place near where you live that was once a burh? How do you know it was a burh?

Answer ...

A burh was a fortified area.

Alfred built burhs to provide protection and as a place from which to defend against the Vikings and other attackers.

Places that were once burhs often include the word "bury" in their name today.

That is the end of this webcast, and you can now turn to another one. Also, find out if your teacher has left you any other worksheets or special instructions on your school website.

If you are interested in this topic, continue to browse the book and watch our amazing videos. They start right on the book cover. Or you may want to go and hear the Anglo-Saxons in action by visiting our 'fly on the wall' Eavesdrop section. You can hear what Anglo-Saxons were actually saying. Just use our safe search and search 'Eavesdrop'.

Or you may need to see related books. If so just go to the top of the screen, select History and from the page that opens choose Anglo-Saxons.

Remember, too, you can go to our safe search and type in any word about Anglo-Saxon times.