

Source A Extract from a history book for children published in 1965:

Rampaging Vikings, or Norsemen, from northern lands now known to us as Norway, Sweden and Denmark, in their determination to become traders, merchants, and seamen, overran southern Europe, like a plague upon the inhabitants.

They shamelessly robbed the islands we now refer to as Great Britain and Ireland. So fierce were these Norsemen that many of the priests were said to close their sermons with a prayer: "God, deliver us from the fury of the Northmen."

Source B Extract from a book published in 1997:

They raided coastal settlements, murdering and terrorizing the native populations and plundering their monasteries, returning to their homelands laden with treasure.

In the mid-9th century, instead of returning home, Viking raiders began to make permanent settlements. They were good farmers, adapting themselves to the culture of the peoples they conquered.

Though fearless warriors, the Vikings were also fine craftsmen, producing fine swords and beautiful woodcarvings.