Voyages and Kingdoms

Scandinavian raids, exploration, and political power

AWH.C.9.5.D "Describe Scandinavian raids and conquests (e.g.,Vikings), explorations (e.g., Iceland, Greenland, Vinland), and state-building (e.g., Normandy, England, Naples, Russia)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one raid or conquest, circle the three westward exploration destinations, and put a star beside two examples of state-building. Use your marks to track the different outcomes of Scandinavian voyages.

What Followed the Ships?

1. In 793, raiders from Scandinavia attacked the monastery at Lindisfarne on England's coast, taking valuables and leaving by ship. Their shallow-draft vessels could cross seas and travel up rivers, so crews reached settlements far from the shore. Raiding was only one form of expansion. In the late 800s, a large Viking army seized parts of England and settled there. The region later called the Danelaw had laws and customs shaped by Scandinavian settlers. A quick raid took goods; conquest could change who controlled land.

2. Other crews sailed west seeking land where they could settle. Norse people reached Iceland in the late 800s and founded farming communities there. In the late 900s, settlers from Iceland, including Erik the Red, established colonies in Greenland. Around 1000, explorers from Greenland reached a part of North America they called Vinland. Archaeologists have found remains of a Norse camp at L'Anse aux Meadows, in present-day Canada. That camp was not a lasting kingdom, but it shows how far these voyages reached.

3. Scandinavian expansion also helped create new states. In 911, a Frankish king granted land in northern France to the Viking leader Rollo; the region became Normandy. Rollo's descendant William conquered England in 1066 and ruled it as king. Other Normans conquered Naples in southern Italy in the 1100s, adding it to their kingdom of Sicily. Farther east, Scandinavian traders and warriors joined local peoples along river routes; their activities helped shape the early Rus state. Trade, settlement, and conquest could all lead to political power.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the attack on Lindisfarne differ from the Viking conquest in England?

2. Describe the westward route from Iceland to Vinland and what people did at each stop.

3. How did a Viking settlement in Normandy lead to a new ruler in England?

4. Compare the Scandinavian role in building political power in Naples and the early Rus state.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph for a museum display about the different outcomes of Scandinavian voyages. Explain one raid, one exploration, and one case of state-building from the passage, then identify which had a lasting political effect.

ANSWER KEY

Voyages and Kingdoms

HIGH SCHOOL · AWH.C.9.5.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one raid or conquest, circle the three westward exploration destinations, and put a star beside two examples of state-building. Use your marks to track the different outcomes of Scandinavian voyages. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the attack on Lindisfarne differ from the Viking conquest in England?	**The raiders took valuables and left Lindisfarne. In parts of England, Vikings seized land and settled, changing who controlled it.**
2	Describe the westward route from Iceland to Vinland and what people did at each stop.	**Norse people founded farming communities in Iceland. Settlers from Iceland established colonies in Greenland, and explorers from Greenland reached Vinland in North America.**
3	How did a Viking settlement in Normandy lead to a new ruler in England?	**A Frankish king granted land to Rollo, whose region became Normandy. Rollo's descendant William conquered England in 1066 and became its king.**
4	Compare the Scandinavian role in building political power in Naples and the early Rus state.	**Normans conquered Naples and added it to their kingdom of Sicily. Farther east, Scandinavian traders and warriors joined local peoples and helped shape the early Rus state.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Scandinavian ships carried people on voyages with different results. At Lindisfarne, raiders took valuables and left. Farther west, Norse settlers founded farming communities in Iceland, where people could remain rather than return after an attack. In northern France, Rollo received land that became Normandy. Normandy had a lasting political effect because it became a region under new leadership, and Rollo's descendant William later conquered England and ruled it as king.

Accept other passage-supported examples for the marking job and open response. Strong responses distinguish a raid from settlement or political rule rather than treating every voyage as a conquest.