READING COMPREHENSION

**THE VIKINGS** **(pp 82 – 83)**

**I**ANY THOUGHTS ON THE FOLLOWING?

1. When were the Vikings powerful?
2. What three things did they do across the northern world?
3. How did we find about their lives?

**KEY:**

1. The Vikings were powerful from the 8th to the 11th century AD.
2. They went on raids and voyages of discovery, colonized the northern world, and struck fear into the hearts of people.
3. We found out about the Vikings from the archeology of their settlements and their literature.

**II** READ THE TEXT

**III** VOCABULARY SEARCH:

RAIDER (n) someone who goes into a place and steals things

INTREPID (adj) willing to do dangerous things or go to dangerous places

DELIVER (v) make somebody free of something

PETRIFIED (adj) extremely frightened, especially so frightened that you can’t move or think

PLEAD (v) to ask for something that you want very much, in a sincere and emotional way; beg

AD – *Anno Domini* used to show that a date is a particular number of years after the birth of Christ

SET OUT – to start a journey, especially a long journey; to start doing something or making plans to do something in order to achieve a particular result

STRIKE FEAR INTO SOMEBODY’S HEART – to make someone feel very frightened

SAGA – one of the stories written about the Vikings of Norway and Iceland; a long story about events that happen over many years

PILLAGE (v) if soldiers pillage a place in a war, they steal a lot of things and do a lot of damage; PILLAGER (n)

BE DESCENDED FROM SOMEBODY– to be related to a person or group who lived a long time ago; to have developed from something that existed in the past

LIVESTOCK (n) animals such as cows and sheep that are kept on a farm

RUNE (n) one of the letters of the alphabet used in the past by people in Northern Europe; a magic song or written sign

CARVE (v) to make an object or pattern by cutting a piece of wood or stone; to cut a pattern or letter on the surface of something

TABLET (n) a flat piece of stone or clay with words cut into it, for example above someone’s grave

EMBARK (v) to go onto a ship or a plane, or to put or take something onto a ship or plane

GRINDSTONE (n) a large round stone that turns like a wheel, and is used for making tools and knives sharp when they are rubbed against it

SPRING (v) to move suddenly and quickly in a particular direction, especially by jumping

EXTORT (v) to illegally force someone to give you something, especially money, by threatening them

SET UP – establish

HOT-TEMPERED (adj) having a tendency to become angry easily

FEUD (n) an angry and often violent quarrel between two people or groups that continues for a long time

GLACIER (n) a large mass of ice which moves slowly down a mountain valley

CUNNING (adj) someone who is cunning is clever and good at deceiving people in order to get what they want; crafty; CUNNINGLY (adv)

MOUNT (v) to plan, organize, and begin an event or a course of action

**III B -** THE END OF THE VIKING AGE. What do you think:

How and why do you think the power of the Vikings finally ended? Read *The End of Viking Power* on **p. 164** and check your ideas:

PIVOTAL (adj) more important than anything else in a situation, system etc.

INTERMARRY (v) if people from two social, racial, or religious groups intermarry, people from one group marry people from the other; to marry someone within your own group or family

CONVERT (v) to change to a different religion

**IV** What else other than raiders and pillagers were the Vikings? Think about their**: (p. 82)**

* skills (\*blacksmiths, leather-workers, jewellers…)
* religion (\*a variety of gods, including Odin, Thor, and Frey)
* trade (\*iron, furs, grindstones…)
* exploration (\*they went on long voyages and travelled far and wide, from Britain to Baghdad**)**

**V** VOCABULARY WORK: **(p. 82)**

*WHAT DID THE VIKINGS DO?*

**KEY**

*The Vikings* ***…***

* tended **livestock**
* carved  **stone**
* traded **goods**
* raided **monasteries**
* worshipped **gods**
* extorted **money**
* settled **in many lands**
* mounted **expeditions**
* explored **far and wide**

**VI** SPOKEN ENGLISH:

THERE ARE MANY FIXED EXPRESSIONS WITH MODAL AUXILIARY VERBS OFTEN FOUND IN SPOKEN ENGLISH. MATCH A LINE IN **A** WITH A LINE IN **B**) **(p. 81)**

**KEY**

**1. b)**

**2. d)**

**3. c)**

**4. e)**

**5. a)**

**6. g)**

**7. h)**

**8. i)**

**9. j)**

**10. f)**

CHECK THE TAPESCRIPT ( **p. 134)**