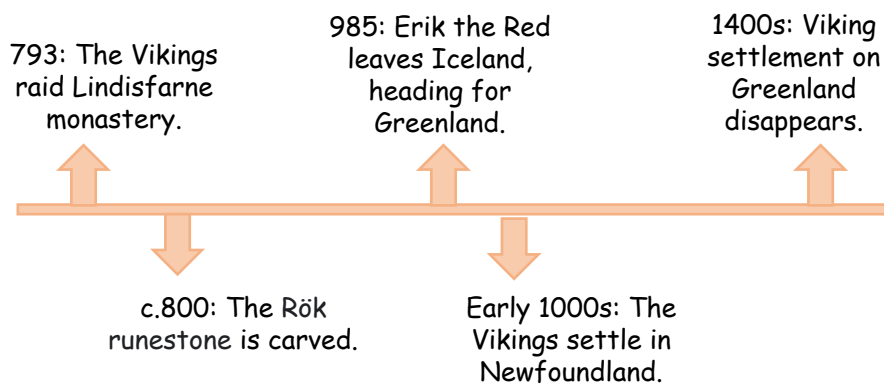


How does the climate help to explain the changing fortunes of the Vikings?

Impact of the climate/environment on Viking life:

Difficult conditions at home:	Scandinavia (where the Vikings came from) was known for its cold weather, and tricky farming conditions. Many Viking men and women left in search of better lives elsewhere.
Unique materials in Scandinavia:	The conditions in Scandinavia were useful in some ways: for example, amber grew from the resin on pine trees, and furs could be made from the coats of animals like beavers and bears.
Medieval Warm Period:	This period of slightly warmer global temperatures allowed the Vikings to travel to new destinations, as the ice had melted and sea routes were accessible.
River routes through Europe:	The Vikings could use rivers like the Dnieper and the Dniester to reach as far south as Constantinople, allowing them to trade.
Rising sea levels:	Rising sea levels, caused by changes in the Greenland ice sheet, impacted on the Vikings' ability to survive on Greenland.

Key dates:



Key terms:

Vikings	People from Scandinavia who raided and settled in parts of Europe and North America in the centuries after 700.
Climate	The typical weather conditions in an area.
Seafarers	People who regularly travel by sea. The Vikings were seafaring people.
Migration	Movement from one place to another, usually on a permanent basis.
Settlement	A place where a group of people set up a new community.
Pillage	To steal valuable items, usually through violence.
Drought	A long period of low rainfall, which leads to water shortages.
Medieval Warm Period	A time (roughly between 950 and 1250) when global temperatures were slightly warmer than average.
Little Ice Age	A time (roughly from the 1300s to the 1800s) when temperatures dropped, especially in Europe.
Runes	Letters of an ancient alphabet, used by the Vikings.
Monastery	A place where religious men (monks) live and worship.
Geologist	Someone who is an expert in studying the history of the Earth.
Archaeologist	Someone who studies human history (and pre-human history), by excavating sites and analysing artefacts.