**GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS MODULE 1 ALFRED AND THE VIKINGS**

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| **Term** | **Definition** |
| Primary source | A source from the time being studied, or nearer that time being studied than today |
| Secondary source | A source after the time being studied, usually by historians commenting on the past |
| value | The benefits or ‘worth’ of a source for telling us about something in the past |
| limitation | The limits of what a source can say for telling us about something in the past |
| Source utility | The use or usefulness of a source for telling us about something in the past |
| ‘Dark Ages’ | Period from around 450 to 1066, so called due to the scarcity of written sources |
| Early Middle Ages | Less controversial than the ‘dark ages’, describes the same period from 5th to 11th centuries |
| Medieval | The period from the fall of the Roman Empire to the early modern period (450-1500) |
| bloodfeud | Revenge killings against the murderers of your own family members |
| vellum | A calf (animal ) skin stretched, cleaned and prepared for writing on. |
| heathen | pagan (ie. non-Christian) |
| penny | A unit of currency, eg. silver penny. In the 860s Mercia and Wessex formed an alliance by which coinage of a common design could circulate in both kingdoms. |
| calends | The first day(s) of a month |
| ides | The middle day(s) of a month |
| raiders | Describes the Danes/Vikings who led conquering armies to take goods, land and people, but the term broadened out to include trade and settlement. |
| longships | A Scandinavian military vessel, used to make raids and carry their warriors. |
| fyrd | A local militia force used to repel invaders. |
| ealdormen | A noble who was in the service of the king. |
| thegns | Nobles who were less powerful than earls. He held land from the king in return for military service. |
| shires | An administrative unit of land organised by Anglo-Saxons and governed by an ealdorman and sheriff for keeping order. |
| Twelfth Night | 5th January. The last day of the twelve day feast of Christmas, starting 25th December. |
| oaths | A solemn promise made to bind the person to do something upon punishment by God/gods |
| chrism | Oil (eg. olive oil) made holy by being blessed by a priest, used for special Christian rituals such as anointing, when a person has holy oil poured on them or a sign of the cross is made. |
| logistics | The ordering of resources for military campaigns and battles. |
| shield wall | A military tactic of warriors standing shoulder to shoulder locking their shields to form a protective barrier against arrows, spears etc. |
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| **Places** |  |
| Watling Street | A ancient Roman road running from London to Wroxeter (Shropshire) |
| Heptarchy | The name given to the seven kingdoms of England in the ninth century: Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia, Essex, Kent, Sussex and Wessex. Fallen out of favour with historians more recently, the term has value in recognising the multiple overlapping kingdoms. |
| River Lympne | Today called the River Rother, in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle it is called Lympne or Lymne. |
| River Thames | Starting in the Cotswolds, runs through Oxford (called Isis) and out to London and the sea. |
| Francia | Francia is roughly the same territory as modern-day France |
| **People** |  |
| Guthrum | A Danish king defeated by King Alfred of Wessex in 878. |
| Aethelwulf | King of the West Saxons 839-858, father of King Alfred |
| Judith | Queen Consort of Wessex twice (wife of Aethelwulf and his son Aethelbald) |
| Charles the Bald | King of West Francia (modern France) |
| Danes | ‘Vikings’ from Denmark settled in eastern England, creating ‘Danelaw’ controlled by them |
| Norse/Norsemen | People from Scandinavia, who invaded and settled in England from 8th century. |
| Great Heathen Army | Invasion of England by a Viking army numbering around 3,000 men from 865. Led by Guthrum, Alfred defeated them in 878 at Edington. |
| St Cuthbert | The English saint from Lindisfarne who inspired Alfred in a vision to rally his loyal supporters and to defeat the Danes at Edington. |
| Franks | A Germanic people who live in western and central Europe, the name gives us France today. |
| Hastein/Haesten/n | Different spellings for the same person- A Dane who led a Viking force against England in 892. |