**LO. To recount the events at the Battle of Edington**

Using the **information provided**, **links below** and any other research to create a comic strip to sequence and explain the events in the Battle of Edington.

<https://academickids.com/encyclopedia/index.php/Battle_of_Edington>

Since 875 AD Vikings had been invading the British Isles, gaining greater control of the North and East. Despite their defeat at the Battle of Ashdown, under control of their King, Guthrum, the Vikings continues to push their way into Wessex. During the winter 878 AD, the Vikings launched a surprise attack on King Alfred at his court in Chippenham.

Alfred and his court went into hiding through the winter, which gave him time to reflect, think and plan how he was going to defeat the Vikings. He began preparations for battle when the spring came and he sent out a call to his Fyrd (part time fighters who were called up when the king needed them in battle). They met in secret at an unknown location, known as ;Egbert’s Stone’. It was from this place that they marched together to Edington, where Alfred became face to face with King Guthrum and he finally challenged him to battle.

Alfred and his Fyrd fought fiercely and were well planned. Prepared for attackm they used a shield wall, created by placing their shields up together, side by side which offered good protection. This was a clever tactic as only small openings allowed spears in, resulting in fewer injuries to the Anglo-Saxon army. This meant the Danes had to fight harder for longer until eventually the Fyrd wore down the Danes. Alfred forced the Danes back to Chippenham where he managed to trap them in his own fortress, hoping they would surrender. Finally, after 2 weeks of starvation, the Danes sued for peace. Alfred the Great had won the battle.

What he did next we crucial. Alfred was aware that his victory would be short lived if he did not take control of his territories yet realistically he could not make the Vikings leave England. So in order to keep peace with the Danes he created a treaty which allowed them to settle in parts of England where Danish law and custom could remain – this area later became known as Danelaw.

The treaty guaranteed King Alfred control over Wessex, after his victory, and allowed him new rule over West Mercia and Kent. He also made a peace agreement with Guthrum, who agreed to follow Christianity and was baptized by King Alfred himself! However, despite all of Alfred’s great efforts, this did not stop future conflicts between the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons.