

## Module 8: The Early Middle Ages

### Topic 2 Content: Second Wave of Barbarian Invasions

#### Introduction

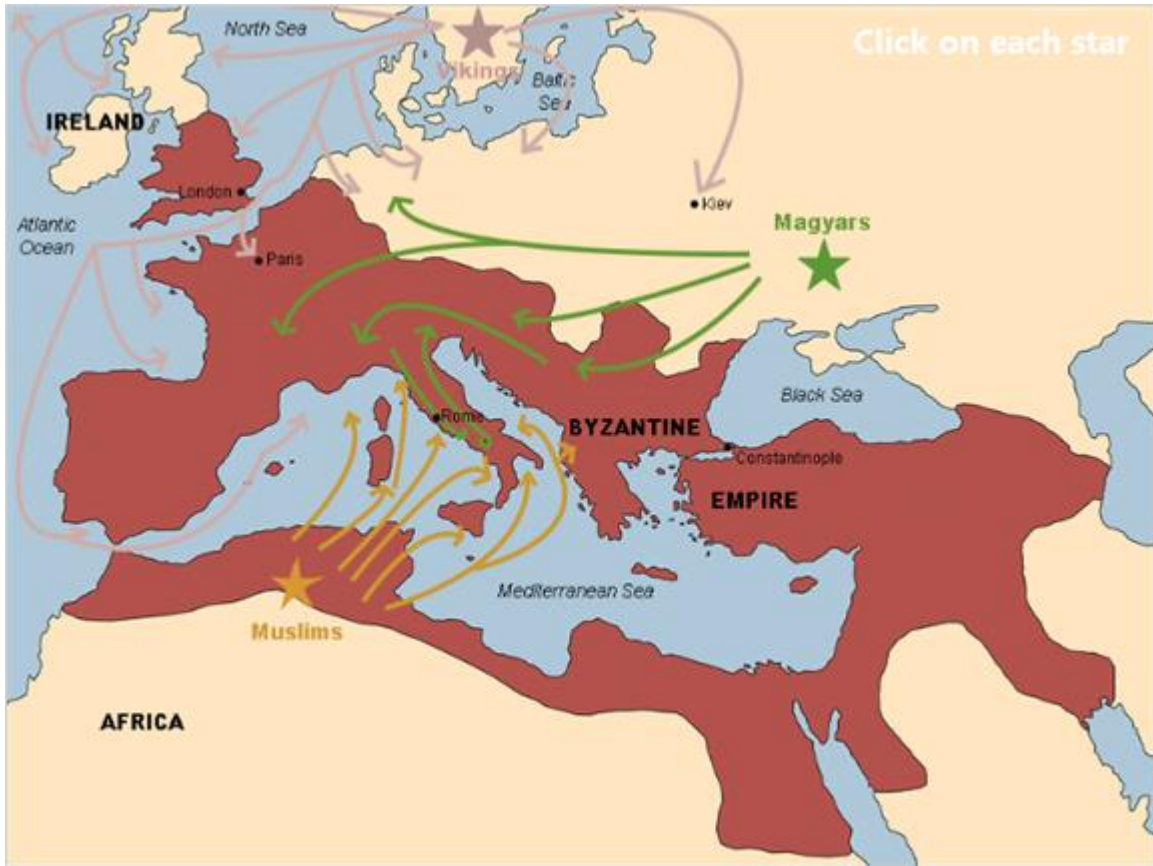


Click each star on the map to explore various migratory groups of the Middle Ages. Click START to begin.

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### Region Selection

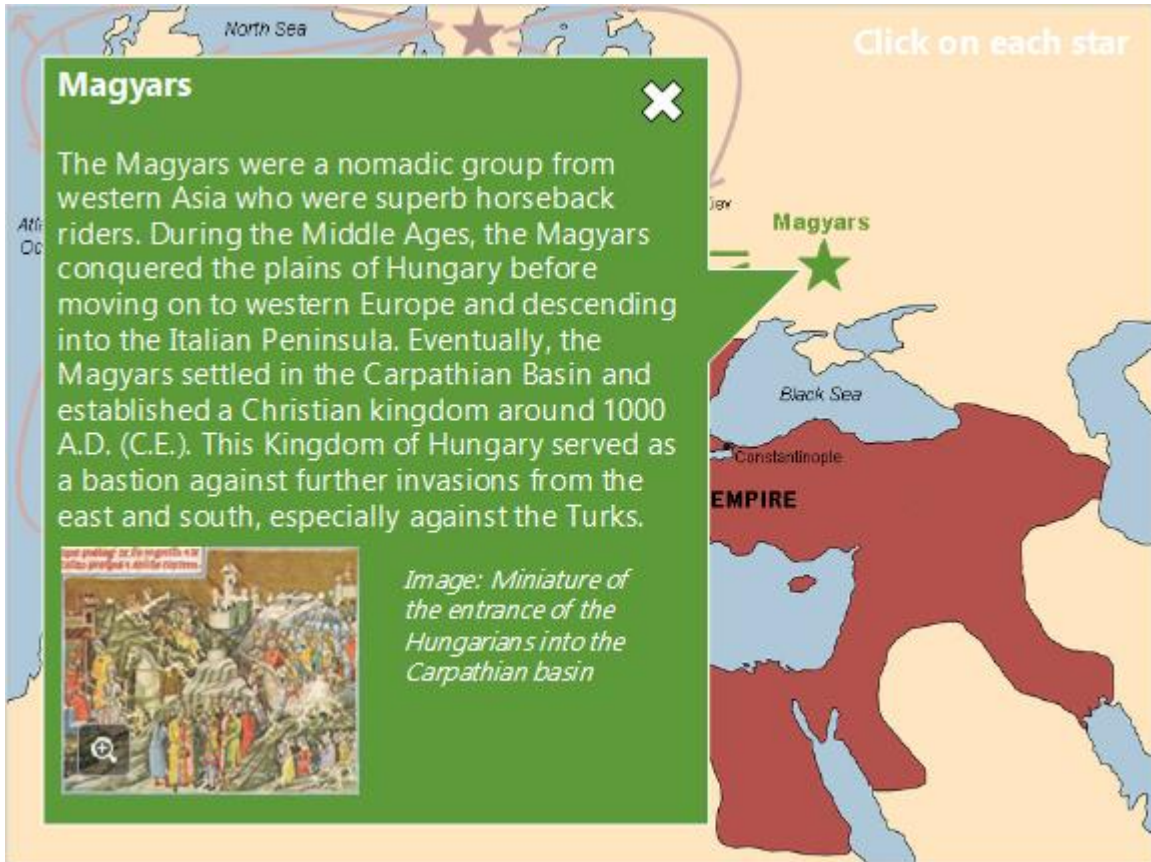


Click on each star.

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#### Magyars



Click on each star

### Magyars

The Magyars were a nomadic group from western Asia who were superb horseback riders. During the Middle Ages, the Magyars conquered the plains of Hungary before moving on to western Europe and descending into the Italian Peninsula. Eventually, the Magyars settled in the Carpathian Basin and established a Christian kingdom around 1000 A.D. (C.E.). This Kingdom of Hungary served as a bastion against further invasions from the east and south, especially against the Turks.

Image: Miniature of the entrance of the Hungarians into the Carpathian basin

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#### Muslims



The image consists of a map of Europe and Africa with red arrows indicating Muslim invasions from Africa into the Iberian Peninsula and across the Mediterranean. A text box titled "Muslims" contains a description of their activities and an image of King Ramiro III of León. The text box also includes a close button (X) and a magnifying glass icon.

**Muslims**

The Muslims struck from Africa. From there, they controlled the Mediterranean Sea and upset trade. The Muslims were excellent sailors. They attacked settlements on the Atlantic, in the Iberian Peninsula (modern-day Spain), along Mediterranean coasts, and as far inland as Switzerland.

*Image: King Ramiro III of León abdicated the throne after the Muslim forces defeated the Christian kingdoms at the Battle of Rueda in 981*

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#### Vikings



The image shows an interactive educational interface. At the top, a map of Europe and the North Sea region features a red star over Scandinavia labeled 'Vikings'. Red arrows indicate their invasion routes across the North Sea, Baltic Sea, and into the Atlantic Ocean. A text box titled 'VIKINGS' contains a paragraph of text. To the right of the text is a medieval-style illustration of Viking longships on the water. A 'Read More' button is located at the bottom of the text box. The text 'Click on each star' is visible in the top right corner of the interface.

Click on each star

### VIKINGS

A Germanic people called the Vikings were by far the most terrifying group of invaders. They invaded Europe between 800 and 1000 A.D. (C.E.). Also referred to as Norsemen or Northmen, Vikings came from an area of northern Europe called Scandinavia, which today encompasses the modern countries of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. Seeking adventure, riches, and new avenues of trade, these Norse raiders easily defeated local armies as they sacked villages and towns from France in the west to Iceland in the north, and even as far east as Russia. The Viking settlement at the mouth of the Seine River would be named Normandy.

[Read More](#)

*Image: Danes invading England*

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#### Vikings Continued



The image shows an interactive educational interface. At the top, a map of Europe and the North Atlantic is displayed with red arrows indicating Viking invasion routes from Scandinavia to Ireland, the British Isles, and the Mediterranean. A red star is placed over Scandinavia. Text labels on the map include 'North Sea', 'Baltic Sea', 'Vikings', and 'IRELAND'. The Atlantic Ocean is partially visible on the left. In the top right corner, the text 'Click on each star' is written. A large, semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the map. The text box has a title 'VIKINGS Continued' and contains a paragraph of text. To the right of the text is a small image of a 19th-century painting depicting Viking longships attacking a city. Below the image is a caption. At the bottom of the text box is a 'Read More' button.

**VIKINGS Continued**

The Vikings' secret weapon of invasion was their shipbuilding expertise. Their ships offered strength and seaworthiness, making them the best of the time period, and allowing Viking sailors to cross the Atlantic Ocean and reach Newfoundland in North America hundreds of years before Christopher Columbus made his successful voyage from Spain. In addition, Viking ships were designed to travel shallow and narrow waterways. Fortresses located far inland from large seas were normally immune to invasions by ships until the Vikings sailed easily to their front gates.

[Read More](#)

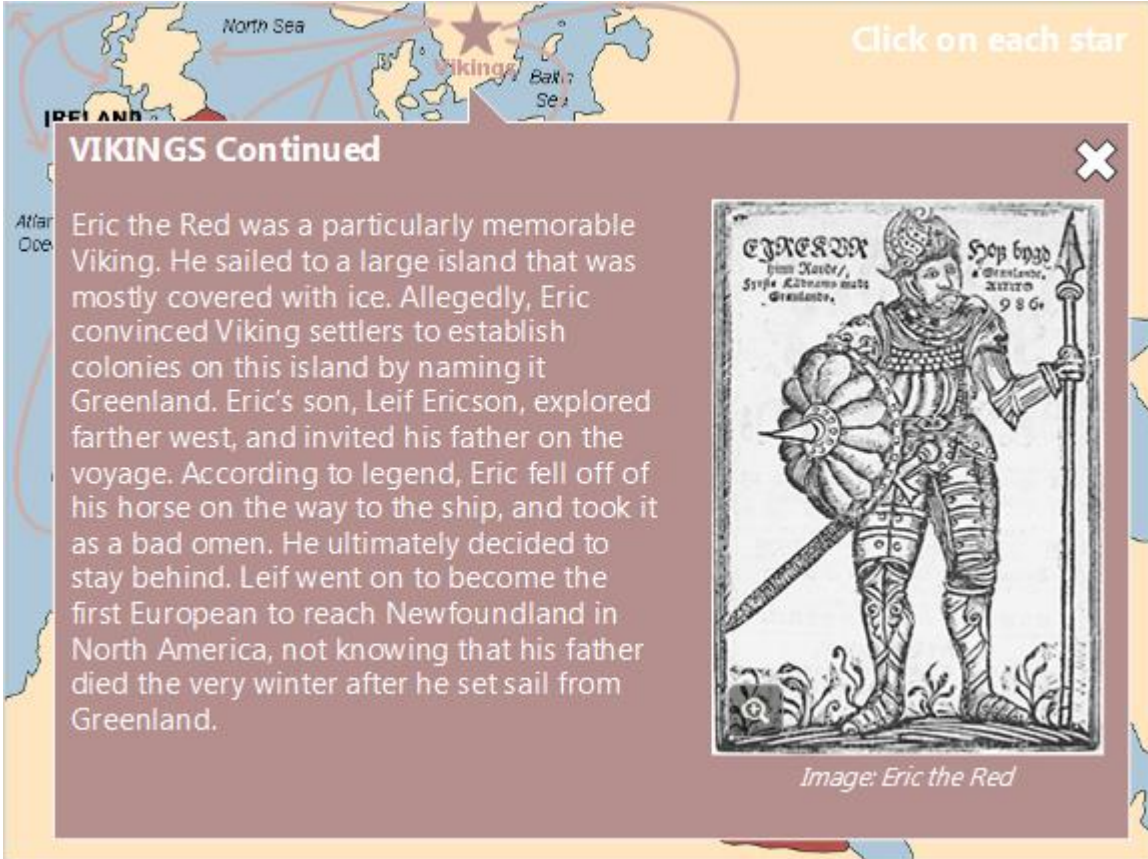
*Image: 19th century portrayal of Viking ships besieging Paris*

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#### Vikings Continued



Click on each star

### VIKINGS Continued

Eric the Red was a particularly memorable Viking. He sailed to a large island that was mostly covered with ice. Allegedly, Eric convinced Viking settlers to establish colonies on this island by naming it Greenland. Eric's son, Leif Ericson, explored farther west, and invited his father on the voyage. According to legend, Eric fell off of his horse on the way to the ship, and took it as a bad omen. He ultimately decided to stay behind. Leif went on to become the first European to reach Newfoundland in North America, not knowing that his father died the very winter after he set sail from Greenland.




Image: Eric the Red

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