

# Scaffolding Inference

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# Thinking about the question

**Question: What were the *greater concerns* that distracted Alfred?**

*One of the best-loved tales of the great Anglo-Saxon king, Alfred, involves some careless cookery. In the year 878, the Vikings were overrunning the Anglo-Saxon lands. Early that year, Alfred only just got away with a handful of men following a surprise attack on his Chippenham base. They escaped into the marshes of Somerset where they relied on the local people for food and shelter. The story goes that Alfred was asked by a poor woman to keep an eye on some cakes she was baking. With his mind occupied by greater concerns, the cakes were soon burnt.*

*Not surprisingly, no evidence of the cakes remains. What is more, the story first appeared in a text some three centuries later. However, people have dug up evidence of Anglo-Saxon sword making, so we can be confident that Alfred was actually there. The rest of the story we probably have to take with a pinch of salt.*



I need to find reasons for Alfred's concerns.

What was going on when this happened?

The Anglo-Saxons were losing to the Vikings.

Alfred was king of the Anglo-Saxons.

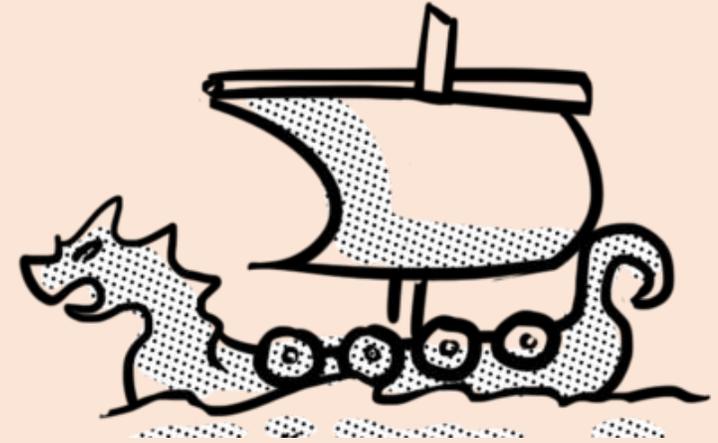
What happened to the Anglo-Saxons was Alfred's responsibility.

# Answering the question

**Question:** What were the *greater concerns* that distracted Alfred?

**Answer:** accept any of the following points:

- how he was going to beat the Vikings
- how long he would still be king
- how he could protect his people
- how he could build up his army
- how he could provide food and shelter for his men
- whether the Vikings would find him in the marshes.



**Note:** you will probably only need one or two pieces of evidence but it is useful to see a full range of possible answers.