



Invaders and Settlers

The Vikings

WHERE DID THE VIKINGS COME FROM?



The Vikings came from Norway, Sweden and Denmark which are North of England.

Their land was not fertile. It was rocky. They found it hard to grow crops.

They found that England was rich with plentiful lands and treasures.

The climate was much warmer than where they came from, they preferred it and wanted to settle here.

PIRATE INVADERS

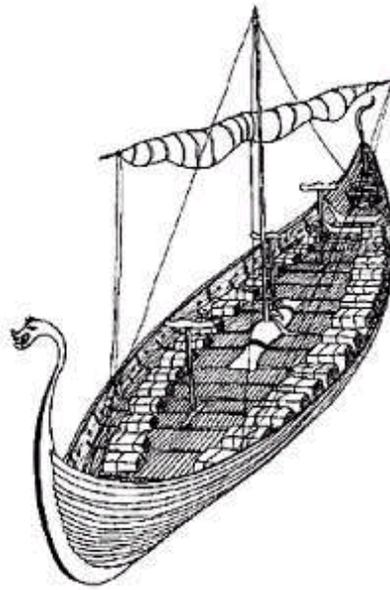
‘Men of war’ is how the Vikings are thought about and indeed they brought violence to England. Over 1200 years ago, sails were seen off the coast of Lindisfarne. The monks in the monastery watched as the longships came closer and landed. The warriors were fierce and frightening. The monks were skilled fighters but could not hold them back. The Viking raiders took gold from Lindisfarne back to Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

‘on 8 june 787 AD ravages of heathen men miserably destroyed God’s church on Lindisfarne with plunder and slaughter’ (Anglo Saxon Chronicle)



These raids went on for many years as the Vikings stole from the monastery. The word ‘Viking’ means pirate, and these pirates were about to get even greedier....

The Vikings used longships to raid and steal from other lands.



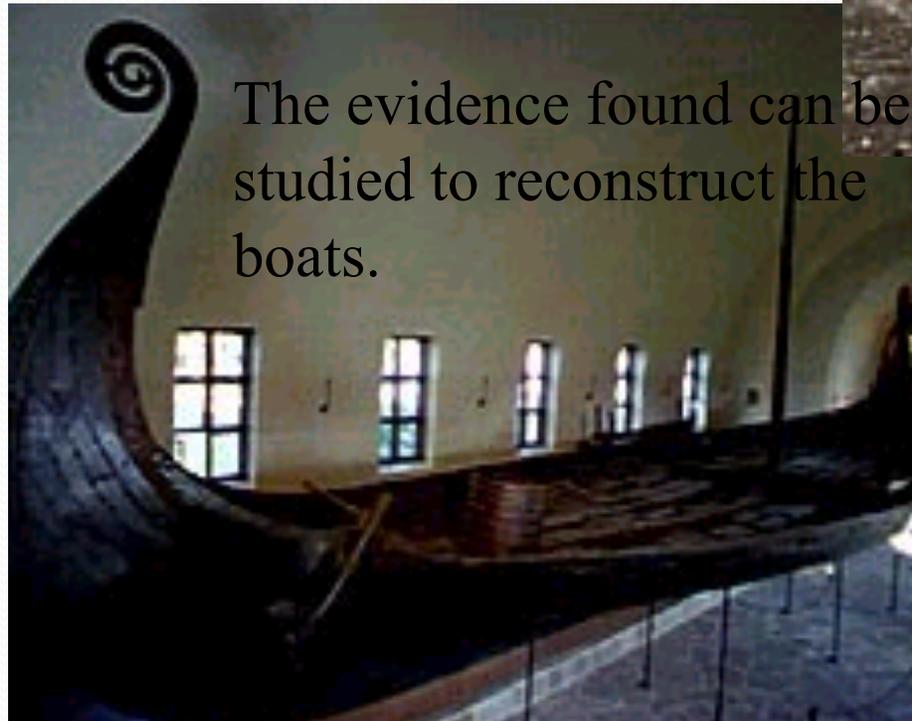
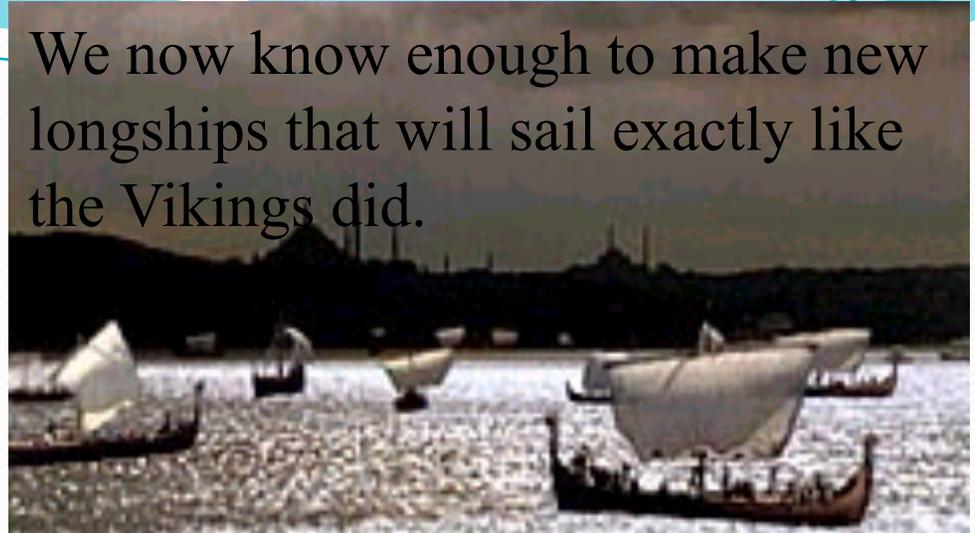
The Longships were powered by sails or by rowing with oars.

Longships

The Viking longships were crafted out of woods and were very effective and skimming across the surface of the waves. They used their boats for transporting cargo, trading and for exploring. The Vikings even travelled to America, which they called Vineland, because grapes grew there.



We now know enough to make new longships that will sail exactly like the Vikings did.



The evidence found can be studied to reconstruct the boats.



Constantinople was the main city of the Byzantine empire. The Vikings traded there.



The Vikings were the first Europeans to reach **America.**

THE VIKINGS SEEMED TO GET EVERYWHERE...

Eric the Red founded a new settlement in **Greenland.**

The Vikings had settlements in **Iceland** in the ninth century.

The French king gave the province of **Normandy** to a Viking duke named Rollo to stop him attacking.

The Vikings settled in an area called **Rus.** The name Russia comes from this word.

SAGAS AND RUNES

Sagas

Viking children did not go to school so instead, lessons came in the form of Sagas or long stories. They described the adventures of great Viking warriors or gods. The Sagas were an important way to teach History, Geography and navigation. The Vikings often decorated buildings with pictures from famous sagas.

Runes

The Viking alphabet was called the Futhark. The letters or runes were carved into wood or stone. The runes are made of straight lines so it is easier to carve them.

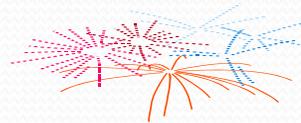


Viking Gods



Odin or Woden was the god of war. He rode an eight legged horse.

The Vikings believed there were many different gods that lived in a place called Asgard.

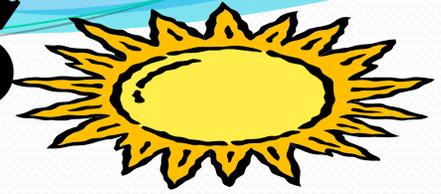


Loki was half god and half fire spirit. He played tricks to cause trouble.



Thor was the god of thunder. He had a quick temper but was good hearted.

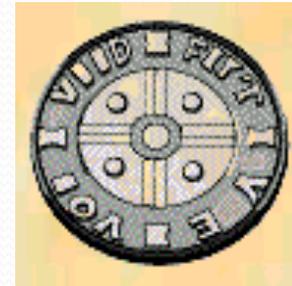
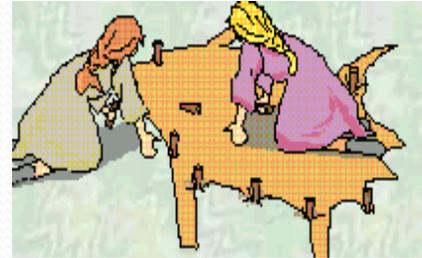
MORE GODS



Frey made the sun shine, the rain fall and the crops grow. He kept a magic boat folded in his pocket.

Fryja was Frey's sister and the goddess of love. She could turn into a bird.

ART AND CRAFTS



Vikings were skilled craftsmen making objects from stone, wood and metal. The blacksmiths were very well respected. Some jewellery was made especially to be buried with someone who had died. Some was made for rich people as it was the safest way to keep their wealth. Gold pendants were made to wear around the neck, some were thought to be magical charms.

Brooches were used to fasten up tunics as they didn't have any buttons. Often they would have keys or combs hanging from them as Vikings did not have pockets either!

VIKING PEOPLE



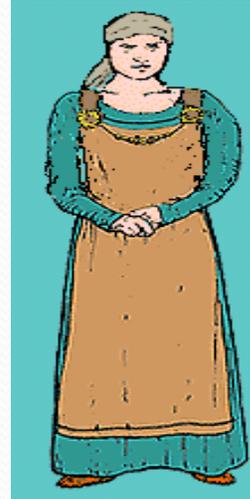
King



Earl



Craftsman



Woman



Slave

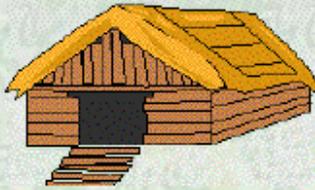
Most Viking countries were ruled by kings. Earls and **chieftains** were also powerful: some had their own armies and warships. Most farmers and **craftsmen** were ordinary **freemen**. There were also many **slaves**.

HOME

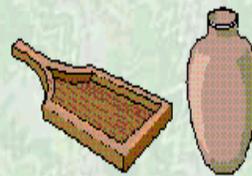


LIFE

Most Vikings were farmers, living with their families and growing and making all the things they needed for their daily lives.



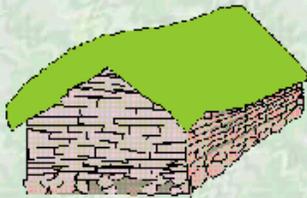
Food was stored in wooden barrels and boxes. The Vikings also used wood for plates and spoons.



Vikings also built "Smithys", which were places for them to make and mend iron tools and utensils.



The Vikings would build a longhouse for the family and barns for the animals.



Viking homes were made of timber planks and woven branches, with turf or thatched roofs.



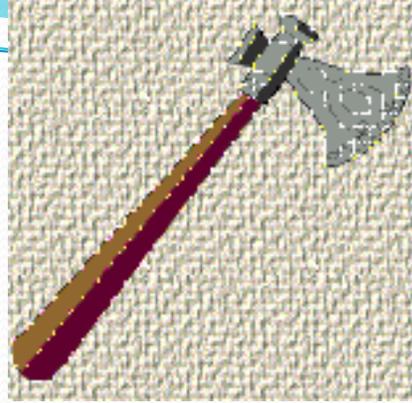
In the middle of the room was an open fire set in a long hearth. This gave the Vikings heat and light.



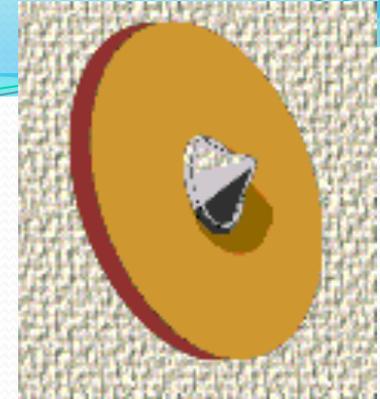
WEAPONS



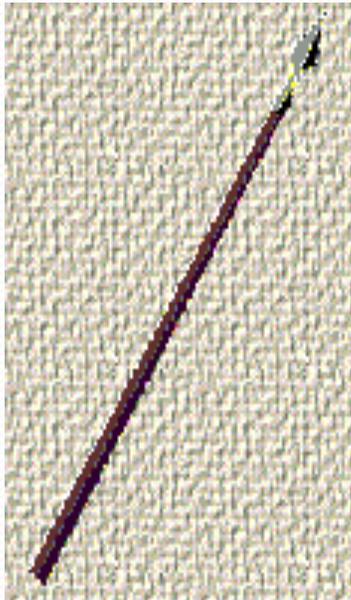
helmet



axe

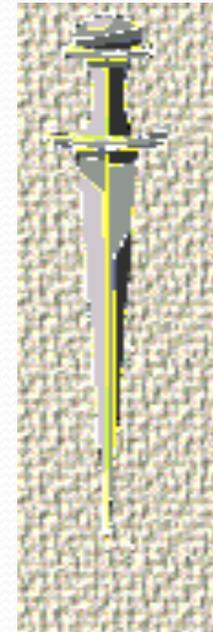


shield



spear

Viking weapons were heavy and strong. The blacksmith would make these as well as jewellery. The metal would be heated up and then banged into shape. To make a weapon stronger, it would be plunged into cold water.



sword