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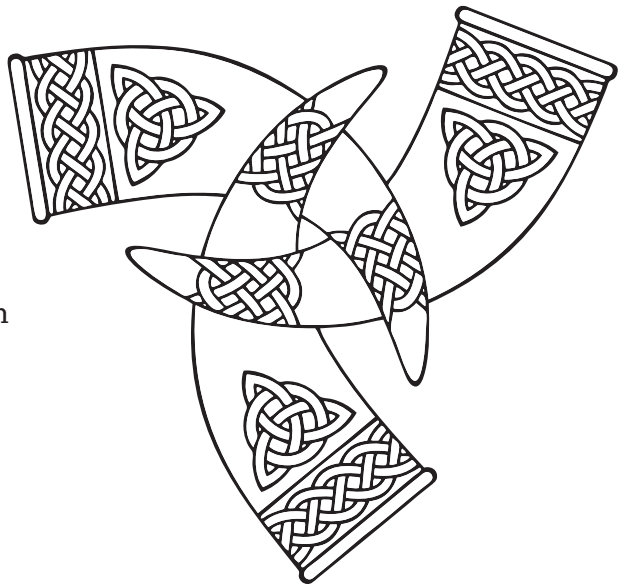
The Vikings: Across the Seas



The Vikings could be described as sailors and explorers. Some were known as fierce pirates. Others were peaceful traders. In their long ships, they sailed faster and farther than any other Europeans of the time. The Vikings established settlements in many parts of Europe, including places where Europeans had never before ventured. Their impact on the history of those places lives on today.

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Find It!

Find the answers to the questions below by using the search tool to search key words.
Since this activity is about Vikings, you can start by searching the key word "Vikings."

Write the answers on the lines provided or below the question.

1. During the era of European history that we call the Viking Age, the Vikings were not actually called Vikings. What were they called at that time?

2. Where did the word "Viking" come from?

3. The Viking Age, during which Viking warriors carried out raids and conquests in other parts of Europe, lasted from the late _____ to about _____.

***Users of the "Advanced" database can find extension activities at the end of this webquest.**

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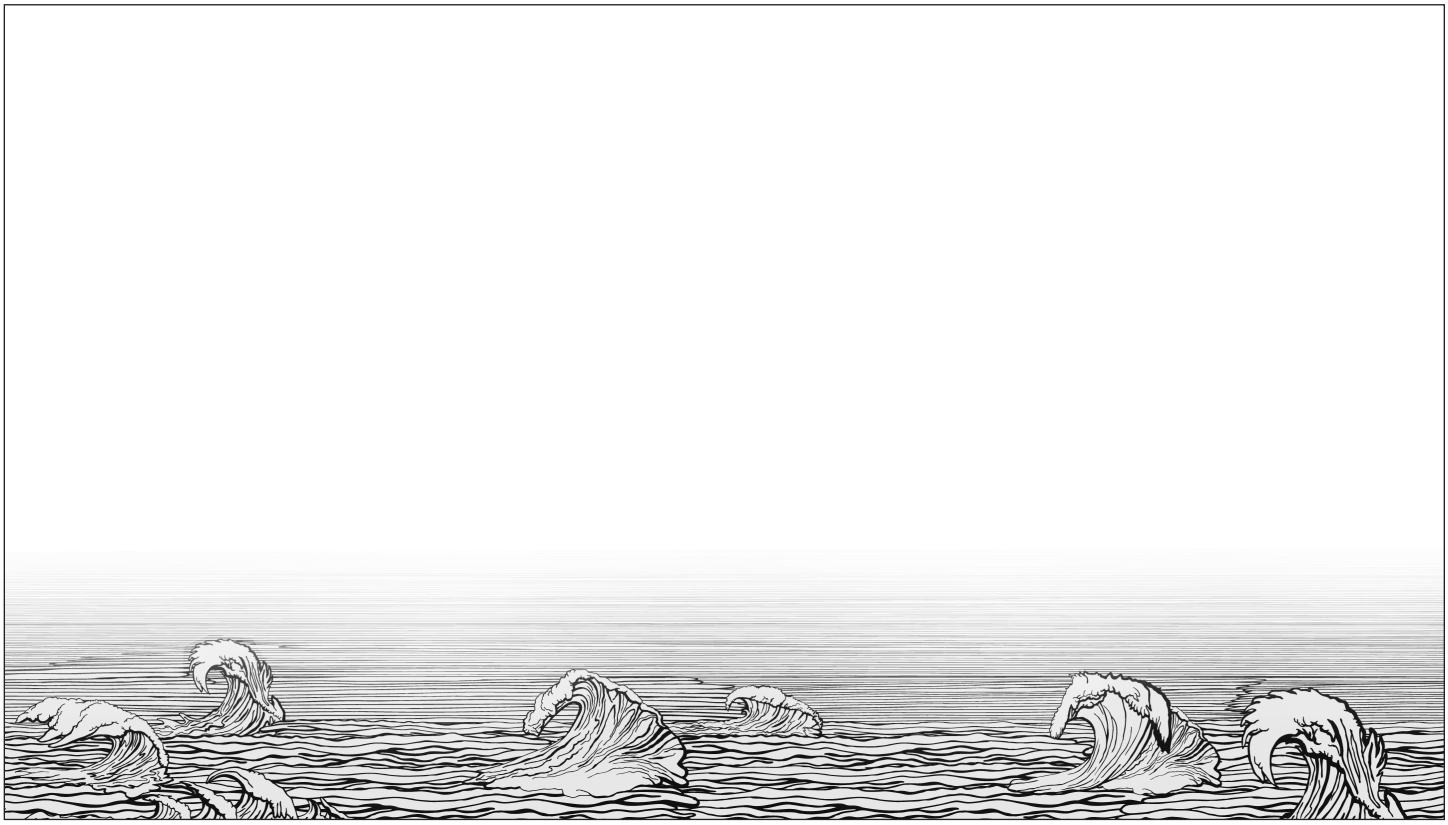
Ships and Navigation

Explore what made the Vikings such outstanding shipbuilders and navigators.

4. Make an outline drawing of a Viking long ship on the ocean below. Name and label the features described below:

   a. The main source of power at sea
   b. The main source of power on rivers
   c. The keel
   d. The carved prow



5. How did adding a keel improve Viking ships?

6. How many oars did a Viking long ship generally have?

7. In 1893, a group of Norwegians built an exact replica of a Viking long ship that had been part of a Viking burial found near Gokstad, Norway. They sailed the replica from Norway to Canada. The trip took _____ days. (Hint: For this question see the "Ship" article.)

8. Pretend you are a navigator on a Viking ship. Explain how you will get your crew safely from Norway to Greenland?

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Raids and Conquests

9. How did Viking ship design help Viking raiders conduct swift surprise attacks?

See It!

10. Find the drawing titled "Viking warrior" in the left column of the article. Identify three types of equipment being carried by the warrior and explain how it was used.

11. What additional types of weapons and equipment does the article say warriors sometimes carried?

Map It!

Within the World Book Vikings article, you will find the map "Vikings' exploration." Study the map and answer the following questions.

Make three lists, one for each of the three main Viking groups. In what main directions did each group sail? List some of the modern nations that now exist in the lands that each group visited. (Hint: Compare the map in the Viking article with maps of Europe, Asia, and North America for country locations.)

Viking Group	Main direction of exploration	Lands visited
12.		
13.		
14.		

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15. Name three regions previously unknown to Europeans where the Vikings established settlements.

16. What and where is L'Anse aux Meadows? (Hint: For this question see the "Vinland" article.)

17. In the 980's, a Viking sea captain named _____ became the first known European to see the mainland of North America.

Viking Settlements and Legacy

People

What was the role of each of these people in Viking history? Explain who they are and their major accomplishments. (Hint: In addition to being mentioned in the Vikings article, each person also has a biographical article within the World Book database.)

18. Alfred the Great

19. Erik the Red

20. Leif Erikkson

21. Canute

Places

Discover the connection between the Vikings and the places mentioned below. Write "True" *or* "False" *in front of each statement.*

22. _____ By the late 800's, Swedish Vikings established strongholds and trade centers in the East Slavic towns of Novgorod (now Velikiy Novgorod in Russia) and Kiev (now in Ukraine).

23. _____ The people who lived in the Eastern European regions that make up modern-day Russia, Belarus, and called the Swedish Vikings the "Rus."

24. _____ The Irish city of Galway was established as a winter base for Viking raiders in 841.

25. _____ The Danelaw was the area of northern and eastern England that was ruled by the Danes after Danish Vikings invaded England in the 800's. (Hint: More information can be found in the articles on the Danelaw and on Alfred the Great.)

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26 _____ King Charles III of France granted land in northern France to a Viking chieftain named Rollo in exchange for Rollo's pledge of support for the king. The region became known as "Normandy" (Land of the Northmen).

27. _____ Settlers from Iceland gave Greenland its name because Greenland was warmer and have more vegetation than Iceland. (Hint: For this question see the articles on Greenland or Erik the Red.)

28. _____ Danish Viking control over all of England lasted for more than a century.

Timeline

29. Put the events in the correct order on the timeline below with 1 being the earliest and 6 being the latest date. Include the date for each event after the description.

_____ a. Viking leader Canute brings England under Danish control. Date: _____

_____ b. Viking raiders establish Dublin as a winter base. Date: _____

_____ c. Norwegian raiders attack Lindisfarne. Date: _____

_____ d. A treaty gains Rollo control of northwestern France. Date: _____

_____ e. Leif Eriksson leads an expedition to North America. Date: _____

_____ f. Norwegian settlers begin to migrate to Iceland. Date: _____

30. The Althing, the world's oldest continuous parliament, was formed by Viking settlers. Where and when was it formed? (Hint: For this question see the article "Parliament.")

31. What long-term impact did the establishment of a settlement in Vinland have on the exploration of North America?

32. The last time England was conquered by a foreign power was in 1066. The leader of the victorious army was _____ _____ _____ from _____.

He was a descendant of the Viking leader _____.

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Extension Activity 1

Imagine that you are one of the settlers that accompanied Leif Eriksson to Vinland. Write a series of journal entries about your experiences. Cover some of the following questions:

Why did you decide to go?

What was the voyage like?

How did you feel when you reached Vinland?

What happened to you there?

How did you feel when you left?

Extension Activity 2

Study the map of Viking exploration found in the Viking article—your future depends upon it! A time machine is about to transport you back to the Viking Age. The machine will allow you to chose to go to any location on the map. What location do you chose? Write a paragraph to explain your choice. Now write another paragraph OR draw a picture to show what your new life will be like.

Extension Activity 3

What do you think life was like on a Viking ship as a) a trader, b) a settler, or c) a pirate. Write a narrative or draw a series of cartoon images to illustrate a day at sea during your voyage. Use facts from World Book articles to support your ideas!

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