

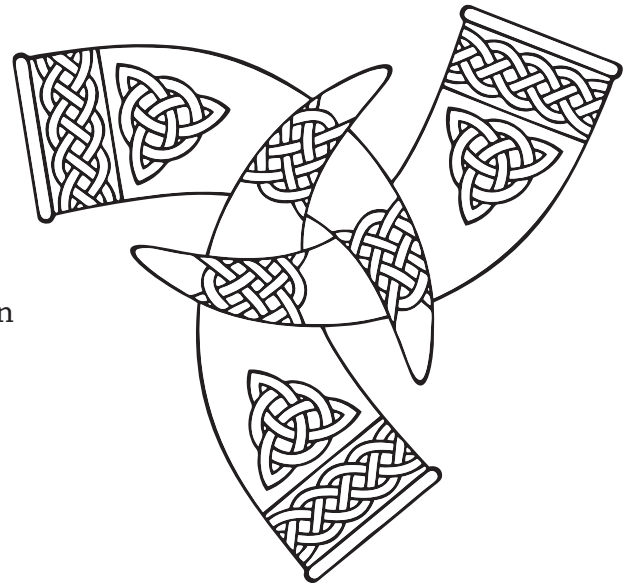
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The Vikings: Across the Seas

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 _____.

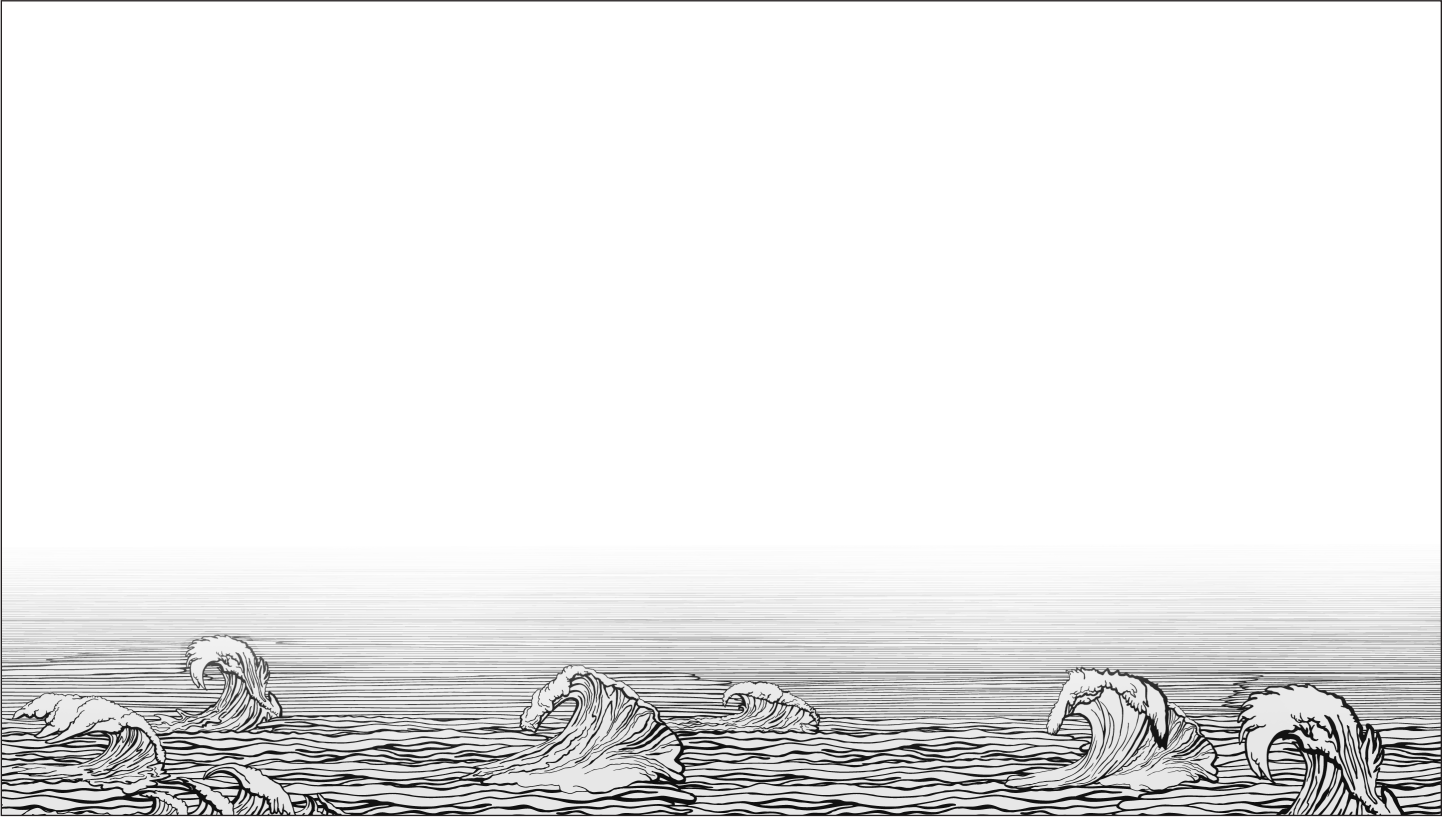
***Users of the “Advanced” database can find extension activities at the end of this webquest.**

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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?

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?

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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.		

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 Eriksson

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.)

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.

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Timeline

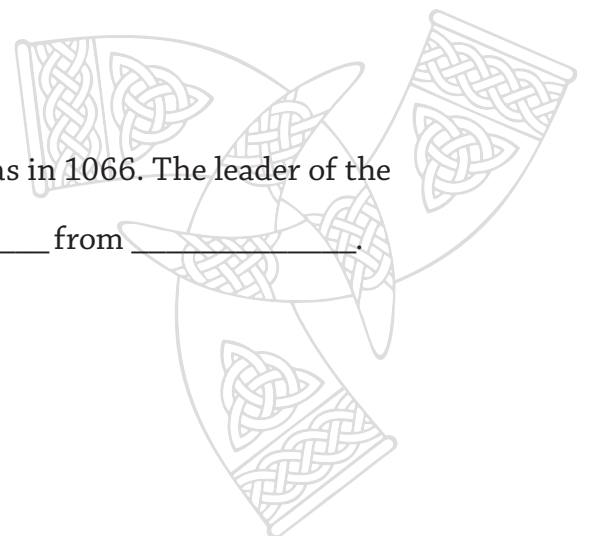
29. Put the events in the correct order on the timeline below with 1 being the earliest and 6 being the latest date. Include the date for each event after the description.

- _____ 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 choose to go to any location on the map. What location do you choose? 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!

Teacher Page

Answers:

1. Other Europeans called them Norsemen or Northmen. They were also sometimes known as the Danes, even though only some of them were from Denmark.
2. The word probably came from “Vik,” the name of a pirate center in southern Norway during Viking times.
3. The Viking Age, when Viking warriors carried out raids on other parts of Europe, lasted from the late 700’s to about 1100.
4. Marked features:
 - a. a large, square, woolen sail
 - b. oars or rowers
 - c. A keel is a long, narrow piece of wood that juts out from the hull and extends, underwater, down the center of the hull for the entire length of the ship. It is like the backbone of a ship.
 - d. The prow is the front end of the ship, curving upward. The high prows of Viking ships were often carved with the head of a dragon or snake.
5. The keel reduced the ship’s rolling motion, increased speed, and made it easier to steer.
6. Generally, a long ship had 15 to 30 oars on each side.
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 28 days.
8. Answers will vary. Techniques include: Sighting of the sun and stars to determine direction and location. Determining latitude by using a measuring stick and a table of figures showing the sun’s midday height for each week of the year. Whenever possible, watching for coastal landmarks and islands, such as the Faroe Islands, the Shetland Islands, and Iceland.
9. The Vikings became known for surprise attacks and quick retreats. They could row their light, swift ships into shallow rivers and then drag them ashore. They often struck so fast that their victims had no time to defend themselves.
10. Helmet (possibly leather or metal), two-edged sword, round wooden shield. Description could also include clothing: trousers, long shirt, cloak, leather shoes.
11. Answers will vary, but may include: a broad ax, bow and arrows, spears, armor made of animal hides, bone, or metal

Viking Group

Main direction of exploration

Lands visited

12. Danish Vikings	South and southwest, along the coasts of Europe	Germany, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium, France, the United Kingdom (especially England), Portugal, Spain, Italy
13. Norwegian Vikings	West and southwest to islands in the Atlantic and to North America	the United Kingdom, Ireland, Iceland, Greenland, Canada
14. Swedish Vikings	East and southeast, through river systems and inland seas of eastern Europe	Finland, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Azerbaijan

15. Iceland, Greenland, and North America

16. In 1961, archaeologists found the remains of a Viking settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows, near St. Lunaire, at the northern tip of the Canadian island of Newfoundland. A reconstruction of a Viking house has been built there as part of the L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site.

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

18. Alfred the Great. In 878 and 886, Alfred the Great, king of Wessex, won major victories against the Danes who had invaded England. He forced the Vikings to withdraw into the eastern third of England.

19. Erik the Red. Erik the Red was a Norwegian Viking who sailed to the island of Greenland about 982. Around 986, he brought the group of settlers from Iceland and established the first settlements in Greenland.

20. Leif Eriksson. The son of Erik the Red, Leif led what was probably the first voyage of Europeans to the mainland of America about 1000.

21. Canute. In 1016, the Danish Viking Canute completed the Danish conquest of England begun by his father, Sweyn Forkbeard. Three years later, he also succeeded his brother to the throne of Denmark.

22. True

23. True

24. False.

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

25. True

26. True

27. False.

Erik the Red named it Greenland to make it sound attractive to settlers.

28. False

Danish Viking settlement in England began in the 800's, but the Danes ruled over all of England only from 1016 to 1042.

- | | | | |
|-----|----|---|------|
| 29. | 1. | c. Norwegian raiders attack Lindisfarne | 793 |
| | 2. | b. Viking raiders establish Dublin as a winter base | 841 |
| | 3. | f. Norwegian settlers begin to migrate to Iceland. | 870 |
| | 4. | d. A treaty gains Rollo control of northwestern France | 911 |
| | 5. | e. Leif Eriksson leads an expedition to North America. | 1000 |
| | 6. | a. Viking leader Canute brings England under Danish control | 1016 |

30. The Althing is the parliament of Iceland. It was formed in the year 930.

31. None! The settlement was abandoned and largely forgotten. Vinland remained unknown to the rest of Europe until long after Christopher Columbus had gained credit as the European discoverer of America.

32. The last time England was conquered by a foreign power was in 1066. The leader of the victorious army was William the Conqueror from Normandy. He was a descendant of the Viking leader Rollo.

Extension Activities 1, 2, and 3: Answers will vary.