

## VIKING RAIDS

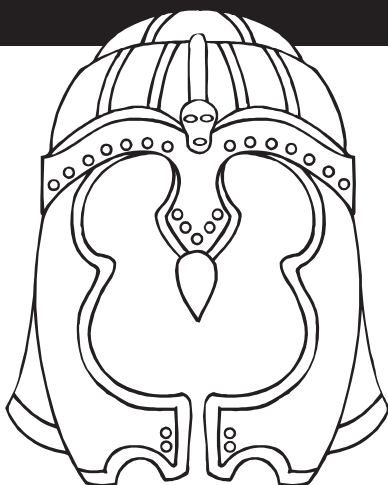


Although Vikings had raided parts of the English coast early in the eighth century, it was a raid on **Lindisfarne** in 793 AD which made people realise the danger the Vikings presented.

**Lindisfarne** which is now called **Holy Island** is found off the north east coast of England. It is a small island and had a wealthy **monastery**. The Vikings attacked

in a well-planned raid and stole their treasure. Many people were killed.

Lindisfarne was one of the most well-known Christian monasteries in the world at this time. The raid showed the ability of the Vikings to attack quickly and efficiently. It also showed that they were not afraid to attack anyone, anywhere!



### THINGS TO DO!

*Imagine you are a young monk who managed to escape from the Viking raid on Lindisfarne. Write a paragraph about what happened and how you feel.*

**Or**

*Imagine you are a young Viking raider who took part in the raid at Lindisfarne. Explain why you attacked the monastery and how you feel now that you have returned home.*

## VIKING WARRIORS



The Vikings were very determined warriors. They fought hard and were well-armed. The main weapons used by the Vikings were the **sword**, **knife** and **axe**.

Viking swords were decorated with carvings which they believed helped them in battle. The Vikings liked to fight at close range and so, although they also used **spears** and **bows** and **arrows**, these were not as popular.

**Wooden shields** helped to protect the Vikings from being attacked. The shields were trimmed with leather and metal and were often painted with bright colours which helped the Vikings to scare their enemies. People often imagine the Vikings wearing horned helmets in their raids but this is not what they really wore. Horns wouldn't

be very practical! Instead Viking **helmets** were close fitting with a **nose guard**. Rich Vikings also wore **chain mail armour**.

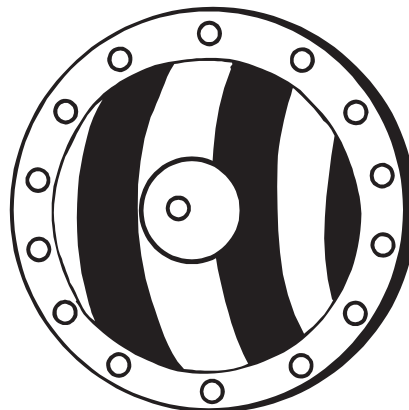
The **armourer** or **weaponsmith** made Viking weapons. These were often decorated with silver wire and a black metal alloy called **niello**.



## THINGS TO DO!

**Using the shield on the right as a guide draw your own Viking shield on a separate piece of paper or card. Make it brightly coloured with some Viking images and shapes to help you to scare your enemies!**

**Visit <http://www.valhs.org/history/text/history.htm> for some images of traditional Viking shields and details of Viking life.**



## RUNIC WRITING

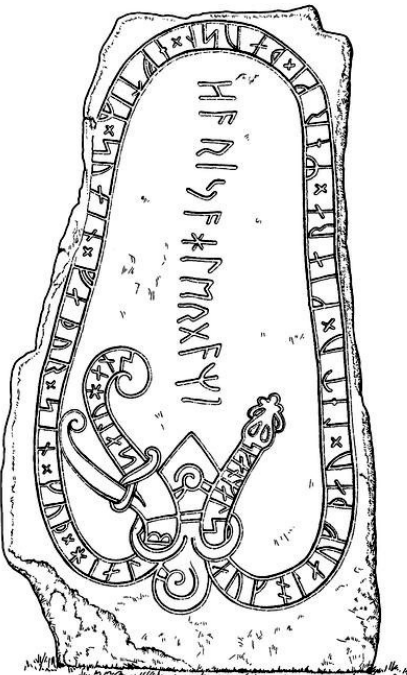


**Runes** were letters which used to be used for writing throughout Europe. The runic letters above show a simple version of the sixteen sign alphabet used in Denmark during the Viking era. This alphabet is usually called the **futhork alphabet**. This might make it sound hard, but it is just based on the first six letters of the alphabet.

Runic writing was made up of **straight lines** as this was easy to carve. Most ordinary Vikings could **read** when at this time, in many cultures, only the rich could read. It can be hard to read runic carvings as sometimes they were written left to right, or right to left or even up and down! The letters also had regional variations and were sometimes used for whole words as well as parts of words. If the word had a sound that didn't have a runic letter the Vikings just used the nearest sounding letter! They did develop a more complete alphabet but the one above was the most common.

## THINGS TO DO!

**Visit:** <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/vikings/runes.html> **and you will be able to type in your name and see it the runic alphabet.**



**Using the guide at the top of the page write out the words below using the runic alphabet.**

hut \_\_\_\_\_

sat \_\_\_\_\_

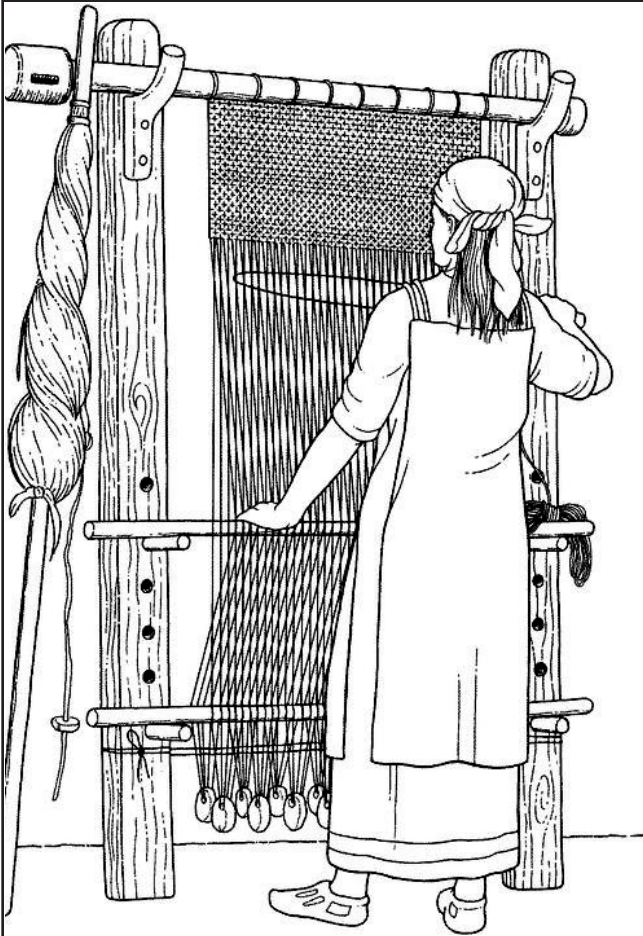
storm \_\_\_\_\_

mast \_\_\_\_\_

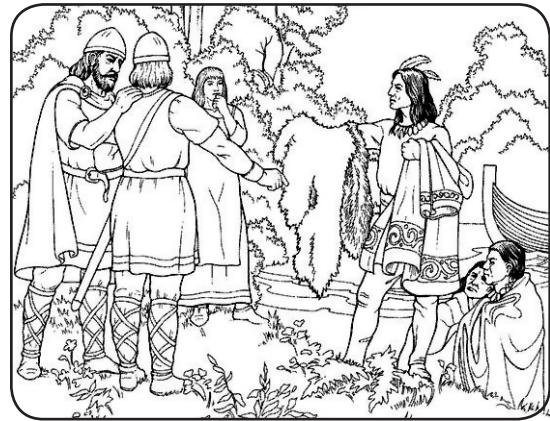
boat \_\_\_\_\_

star \_\_\_\_\_

## CLOTHING



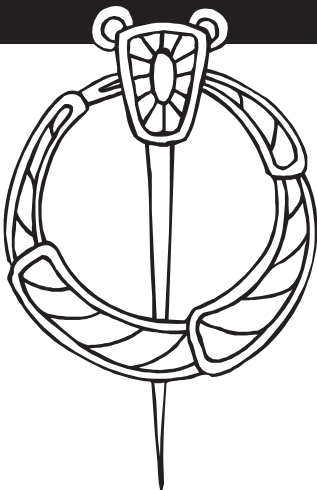
Vikings were fond of bright colours and clothes were often dyed using dye made from vegetables and plants. The style of dress was similar whether you were rich or poor. The quality of the clothes and the materials used was much better if you were wealthy though! Viking raiders brought back **fine wool** and **silk** from other countries. These were expensive and could only be bought by the rich.



Very little has survived of the **clothes** worn by the Vikings. Their clothes were made of natural materials such as **wool** and **cotton** and these rot quite quickly. We know about the kind of clothes that the Vikings wore from historical evidence.

Every household would have had its own **loom** for **weaving**. Linen and wool were woven into big sections of fabric and then cut into the clothes. It took a long time to weave and sew the cloth into clothes so the patterns were quite simple.

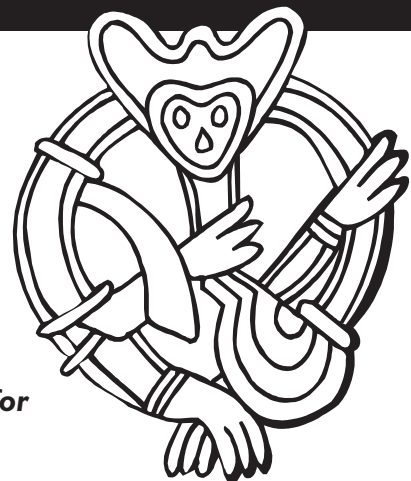
## THINGS TO DO!



*The Vikings didn't have buttons or zips to fasten their clothes, instead they used brooches.*

*Viking brooches were decorated with elaborate patterns.*

*Design your own Viking brooch for a Viking chieftain to wear.*



# LIFE IN A VIKING VILLAGE



Sitting round the camp fire in a mock Viking Village.

Most Vikings lived and worked on the land. They kept animals for food and grew what they could. In Scandinavia life could be hard in the winter with temperatures dropping very low. It was important to grow as much as you could in the warmer months to feed you in the cold months.

Viking houses are called **longhouses** because they were long in shape. They usually just had one room and everyone in the family lived together! The floor was just dirt and food was cooked on an open fire with no chimney so it could get quite smoky and smelly inside!



Household items were hung around the walls.



Farmhouses were long with just one floor. Fences kept the animals in.



A later Viking house and stamps from the Faroe Islands showing Viking life.



A fenced pen and shelter for animals.



# The Vikings • Quiz 1

Question

1

On a piece of paper  
write down the  
question number  
and your answer.

A

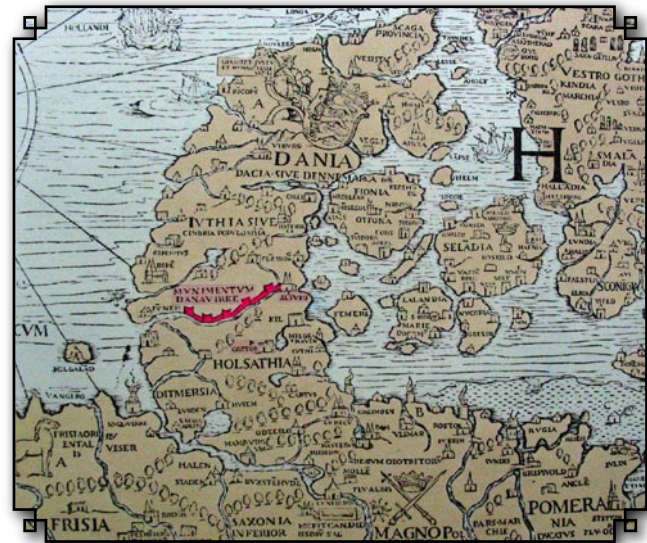
France

B

Scandinavia

C

Croatia



# The Vikings • Quiz 1

Question

2

On a piece of paper  
write down the  
question number  
and your answer.

2. What was the name of the island monastery  
that the Vikings invaded in 793 AD?

A

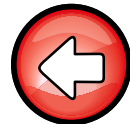
**Saint Columba**

B

**Mount Grace**

C

**Lindisfarne**



# The Vikings • Quiz 1

Question

3

On a piece of paper  
write down the  
question number  
and your answer.

A

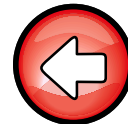
strakes

B

stokes

C

sparks



# The Vikings • Quiz 1

Question

4

On a piece of paper  
write down the  
question number  
and your answer.

A

knarr

B

longship

C

galleon

